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**SPECIAL
ISSUE**

May 2006 | volume 7 | number 5

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HOT

SUMMER

MOVIE

PREVIEW

PUBLICATIONS MAIL AGREEMENT NO. 40708019

INTERVIEWS: HUGH JACKMAN, JACK BLACK, KEIRA KNIGHTLEY, ANDRE BENJAMIN

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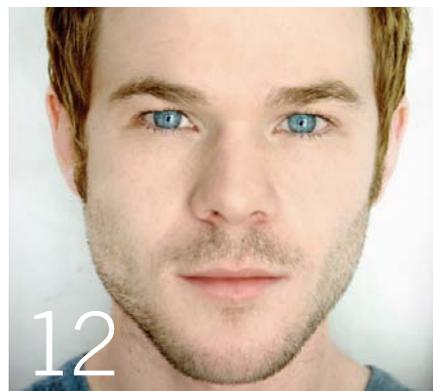
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GRAB LIFE



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SUMMER LOVIN'



It's no secret that the past couple of years haven't been among the best in the history of cinema.

Sequels that have no right to be, adaptations of TV shows that we'd all but forgotten and cookie-cutter action movies filled up far too much of the schedule.

But I had a moment of joyful revelation while putting this issue together. After a few days spent researching our **Summer Movie Preview** I jumped from my desk, ran (okay...walked with some determination) over to my deputy editor's office and pronounced with certainty and more than a bit of arrogance, "I think Hollywood is finally making good movies again."

Of course, in between the also-rans there have always been extremely worthwhile films. But it's only when we write these season previews that we get a real good look at the big picture. And this summer has very few films that make me sigh and grumble, and a whole lot that, just the premise or the trailer, make me warm with anticipation or even laugh out loud (which is not easy to do).

My personal summer will begin with action and suspense in May (*The Da Vinci Code*, *X-Men: The Last Stand*), veer off into smart and inventive comedy in June and July (*The Break-Up*, *Nacho Libre*, *The Devil Wears Prada*, *Super Ex-Girlfriend*) transition to the best kind of over-the-top low-comedy at the beginning of August (*Talladega Nights: The Ballad of Ricky Bobby*), and end with a bit of wistful musical nostalgia (*Idlewild*) at the end of the month.

For some insight into why I find these particular movies so appealing you'll have to read through our preview, which kicks off on page 15.

And throughout this special section, look for the little interviews we did with some of the biggest stars of the summer.

Starting it all off on page 16, **Hugh Jackman** muses on the philosophy behind the premise of *X-Men: The Last Stand*. On page 20, **Jack Black** talks about losing many fights to real luchadors (Mexican wrestlers) while preparing for *Nacho Libre*. You'll find **Keira Knightley** critiquing her own performance as the comely Elizabeth Swann in the *Pirates of the Caribbean* movies on page 24. And on page 30 we have **Andre Benjamin** explaining his love affair with the 1930s and '40s, the era beautifully exploited in his upcoming musical, *Idlewild*.

—MARNI WEISZ



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CAUGHT ON FILM

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- 1 How can someone look so ridiculous and so adorable at the same time? Reese Witherspoon gets ready to shoot a scene on the set of *Penelope*. She plays the motorcycle-riding best friend of a pig-faced woman (Christina Ricci) and is also co-producing.
- 2 Tom Hanks spends a few months in France shooting *The Da Vinci Code* and now he's wearing a beret? Actually it suits him. Hanks carries a bag of food from the popular E.A.T. restaurant along Madison Avenue on a chilly spring day.
- 3 A powdered and pin-curled Keira Knightley arrives at her glam '20s-themed birthday party at London's brand new (and already incredibly trendy) Paper and Glass Club.
- 4 Jake Gyllenhaal (right) and a friend stroll along a Malibu beach with Jake's dogs — German Shepherd Atticus Finch and his new puggle Boo Radley (both named after characters in *To Kill a Mockingbird*). Puggles are the hot new breed in Hollywood with Uma Thurman, Sylvester Stallone and Julianne Moore all recently adopting the energetic little pug-beagle hybrids.
- 5 We're actually not sure if that Boston terrier belongs to Denzel Washington or is just enjoying the same patio outside an L.A. Starbucks.
- 6 Drew Barrymore and Hugh Grant are spied through a window between takes on the New York City set of their romantic comedy *Music and Lyrics* By.

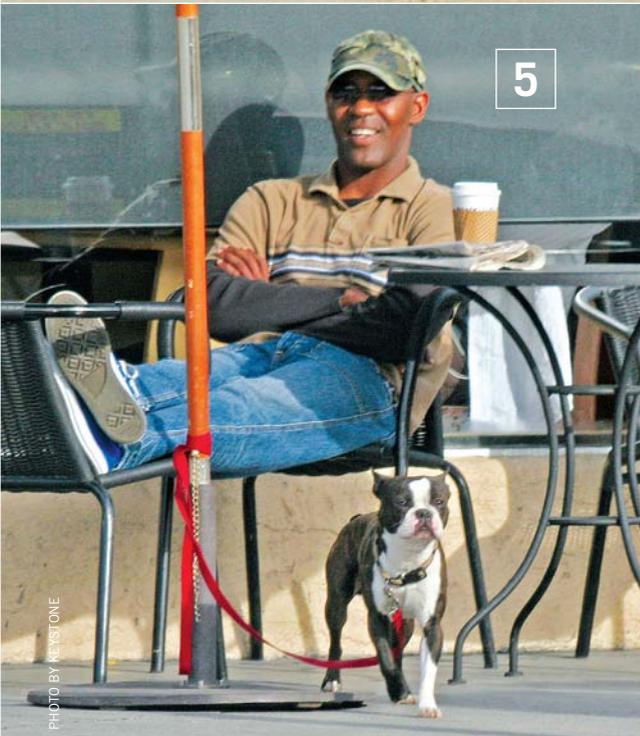


PHOTO BY KEVSTONE



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DUDE, WHERE'S MY SPARE?

On the 19th and 20th of this month, thousands of Dudes will gather in Austin, Texas. And if you ask real nice, next year they might come here.

We're talking about Lebowski Fest, a two-day tribute to the Coen Brothers' 1998 comedy *The Big Lebowski*. Accordingly, those Dudes are devotees of Jeff Bridges' character, the Dude, a live-and-let-live kind of bowler who is mistaken for an in-debt millionaire known as the Big Lebowski. The confusion leads a couple of thugs to pee on the Dude's rug, which spins him and his bowling buddy Walter (John Goodman) off on a complicated journey to recoup his loss.

"The characters are hilarious, the dialogue is just really quotable. It's kind of like a really good album, you can listen to it over and over again," says Lebowski Fest co-founder Will Russell on the line from his hometown of Louisville, Kentucky.

The Austin event marks the 10th time Russell and his partner Scott Shuffitt have gathered fans from across the continent (up to 4,000 per event) for what is essentially a two-part party — a concert and screening of the film on the first night, and a bowling extravaganza with contests and costumes inspired by the movie on day two. After kicking off in Louisville in 2002, the event has since travelled to Los Angeles, Las Vegas and New York.

And Russell says there have already been lots of emails from Canadians asking when Lebowski Fest will come north. "It's not a sure thing, but we want to go international and we're thinking Canada



Jeff Dowd (centre) who was the Coen Brothers' inspiration for the Dude poses with costumed revelers at Lebowski Fest 2

would be a good start. We've heard a lot of good things about Vancouver."

When told that if the Dude existed in our country he would most likely live in Vancouver, Russell laughs and says, "Okay, that is good enough for me."

Lebowski Fest has become such a known entity that Jeff Bridges himself attended last year when it was held in Los Angeles. He played with his band on the opening night, and then provided Russell with his most memorable moment of all Lebowski Fests.

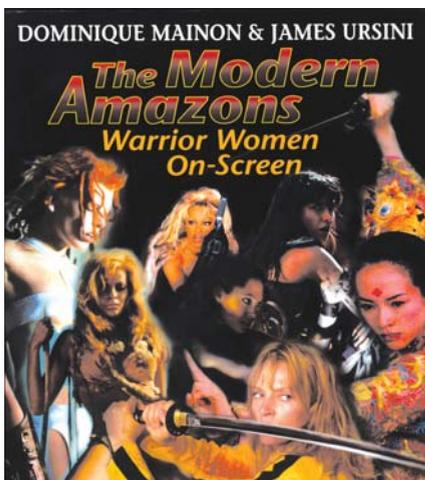
"He wore his jelly sandals that he wore in the film, and I asked him about it. And he said, 'What size shoe do you wear?' I told him 11, and he said, 'Here, try it on,' and he threw me his jelly sandal. I took off my shoe and was getting ready to put my foot in it and he said, 'No, you've gotta take your sock off because I want you to get the full Dude experience.' That was pretty bizarre."

If a pilgrimage to Austin is in your plans, tickets for the opening night show



(\$15 U.S.) and the bowling day (\$25) can be purchased from Lebowskifest.com, but Russell says get 'em early because they usually sell out about a week before the event. —MW

EXPLORING THE AMAZON



You think carnations and a card will make mom happy this Mother's Day? Lame! Your mom is a hero, an inspiration...a warrior (okay, that's stretching it). But why not pay tribute to your mom, and all women, on Mother's Day by giving her a copy of *The Modern Amazons: Warrior Women On-Screen* by authors Dominique Mainon and James Ursini (\$24.95, Limelight Editions).

This comprehensive 400-page tome charts the rise of the female movie and TV action hero, from the pre-historic babes in fur bikinis (think Raquel Welch in 1966's *One Million*

Years B.C.) to today's cool-as-ice assassins such as *Mr. & Mrs. Smith's* Angelina Jolie and *Kill Bill's* Uma Thurman.

The authors break down the various warriors into subgroups — including spies, superheroes, supernatural gals and historical figures — and analyze their impact on cinema, pop culture and society. And, according to Mainon and Ursini, empowerment starts early as they devote a chapter to the girl-power of *Harry Potter's* Hermione Granger, the animated *Powerpuff Girls* and *Sailor Moon*. If it all sounds too heady, well mom can just make herself comfortable and peruse the book's hundreds of photos. —IR

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SHAWN ASHMORE

COOL AS ICE

Shawn Ashmore is adjusting to his new haircut. The *X-Men* star — he plays Bobby Drake/Iceman in all three *X-Men* films — is in New Orleans preparing for his latest movie, *Solstice*, which focuses on a group of friends dealing with the suicide of one their own. Ashmore needs a more conventional hairstyle for his role as an upper-class kid, a change from the spiky, gel-encrusted hair he wore for *X-Men: The Last Stand*, and the on-set stylist has obliged.

“It’s not quite as styled as I had in *X-Men*, it’s softer, a preppy-style of cut,” says Ashmore on his cell. “And I have a tattoo on my arm that they’re covering up. I’m doing all the prep stuff before we start shooting.”

With his penetrating gaze and boy-meets-man looks, the 26-year-old has become a minor movie heartthrob. The Richmond, B.C., native — who moved to the Edmonton suburb of St. Albert when he was a baby and then to Toronto when he was 10 — can pinpoint his

role as *X-Men*’s tortured mutant Bobby for his swoon appeal, and specifically the on-screen romance between Bobby and Rogue, which remains one of the film franchise’s best story elements (Rogue’s energy-sucking power means she hurts those whom she touches).

“What I really love about Bobby and Rogue’s relationship is that it’s a tragic romance,” says the actor. “There’s a romantic interest there that they can’t take as far as they want to, and at the age, what you want is to have someone you can really trust and share yourself with and they can’t. That’s tragic.

“And that’s why it’s so satisfying, as an actor, to play. That sort of frustration leaves people wanting more and rooting for them to get together, but you feel that, ultimately, maybe they never will. And I hope I’m not giving too much away,” says Ashmore with just a hint of trepidation, “but there is another piece of the puzzle in the new movie, in terms of the love triangle between Bobby,

Rogue and a new character called Kitty.”

Be careful Shawn, you don’t want to be responsible for any *X-Men* spoilers. But leaking too much plot info isn’t first and foremost on his mind these days. After spending months surrounded by the art-directed and CGI-enhanced devastation created for *X-Men: The Last Stand*, Ashmore is getting an up-close look at real devastation in post-Katrina New Orleans.

“We are staying in the French Quarter, which is on higher land so it didn’t get a lot of flooding,” he explains, “but the first thing I noticed is the workforce — it sort of doesn’t exist because so many people left the city. Restaurants close super early, a lot of businesses are closed, and not because they were destroyed or damaged, but just because they don’t have a workforce. But in the surrounding areas, in the parishes, the damage is just total, it’s truly a disaster.”

—INGRID RANDOJA

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SUMMER MOVIE PREVIEW 2006



X-Men: The Last Stand, [Mission: Impossible III](#), Hoot, Just My Luck, Poseidon, See No Evil, Over the Hedge, The Da Vinci Code, Nacho Libre, The Break-Up, The Omen, Cars, The Fast and the Furious: Tokyo Drift, Garfield's A Tale of Two Kitties, Click, [The Devil Wears Prada](#), Superman Returns, [Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Man's Chest](#), Little Man, Pulse, Pathfinder, You, Me and Dupree, Once in a Lifetime, My Super Ex-Girlfriend, John Tucker Must Die, [Lady in the Water](#), [Miami Vice](#), Barnyard, Monster House, Idlewild, Talledega Nights: The Ballad of Ricky Bobby, Ant Bully, Zoom, Accepted, [Snakes on a Plane](#), Clerks II, The Night Listener, How to Eat Fried Worms, DOA: Dead or Alive, Crossover, Beerfest, [Apocalypse](#) ▶▶▶

MAY

HUGH JACKMAN HOWLS ABOUT **X-MEN: THE LAST STAND**

BY EARL DITTMAN

Hugh Jackman is sitting outside his trailer on the Vancouver set of *X-Men: The Last Stand*, the third in the *X-Men* franchise. It's a chilly day and he's staying warm in jeans, a T-shirt and a leather jacket. His sideburns clearly belong to his Wolverine character, long and feral, but other than that he just looks like Hugh.

Much has changed since he was last here shooting an *X-Men* movie. Bryan Singer, the director who made the first two movies into rich, intricate stories despite the fact that he'd never seen an *X-Men* comic, is gone. He reluctantly left the team to go direct *Superman Returns*.

"None of us were contractually bound to do another *X-Men* movie, but we all really wanted to do a third one because we loved the roles and we were extremely proud of the two films we had done," explains

"Whether you like the *X-Men* films or not, we definitely opened up the floodgates," says Jackman

Jackman, who spent the better part of his three-year hiatus from playing adamantium-clawed Wolverine winning a Tony Award for his portrayal of singer/songwriter Peter Allen in Broadway's *The Boy From Oz*. He also just wrapped work on Woody Allen's romantic comedy *Scoop* with Scarlett Johansson.

"I've been acting for 10 years, and you get this certain sense when you have a great role.... If you watch *X-Men* or *X-Men 2*, as soon as they are over you're like, 'They could make unlimited movies from these stories. These characters can go any which way,'" says the Australian heartthrob who has also been married for 10 years. He and actor Deborah-Lee Furness have a six-year-old son and a baby girl.

So, after Singer's departure, in stepped Brett Ratner (*Red Dragon*, the *Rush Hour* movies) to direct, and rumours of a mutant mutiny among the major cast members began to circulate in the press.

Jackman says those rumours just weren't true, and that once he met Ratner he felt the studio had made the right choice. "With Brett on board, he pulled all the actors aside and said, 'Our job in the third one is not only to round out the series — because we're paying off things that have been sown in *X-Men* and *X-Men 2* deliberately — we're gonna take the stakes much higher than they've ever been, emotionally,'" recalls Jackman. "We loved him from [that] instant, especially Halle, because he gave Storm more to do in this movie than the other two combined," Jackman says with a laugh. "I mean, Storm can now fly. Imagine that."

Right, Halle Berry. There was another source of discontent.

It was fairly common knowledge that the Oscar-winner was unhappy with the size of her part as Storm (who has the ability to control the weather), and there was talk she would be the lone mutant missing from the original lineup.

"I was only interested that Storm had more of a part to play in the whole scheme of things," Berry told me in an interview last year. "Storm is very much a part of the *X-Men*, but I never knew what voice Storm was taking from the comic books, because it didn't always materialize in the script for me."

But once her role was beefed up, Berry joined her old mutant brethren — including Ian McKellen (Magneto), Patrick Stewart (Dr. Xavier) and Famke Janssen (Jean Grey/Phoenix) — for their third outing. New mutants include Beast (Kelsey Grammer), Angel (Ben Foster) and Shadowcat (Canadian Ellen Page).

Aside from the resurrection of Janssen's character (who sacrificed herself to save the others at the end of *X2*), the plot revolves around the discovery of a "cure" for mutantism, which is developed with the genes of a cloned child who has even more psychic brainpower than Dr. Xavier. Magneto organizes a showdown between humans and mutants, recruiting an army of mutant warriors to fight the distribution of the cure, which forces all mutants to choose sides.

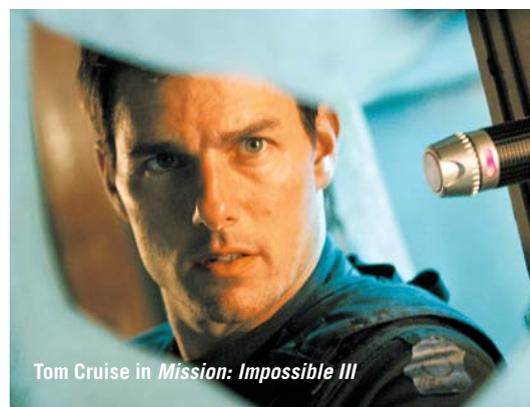
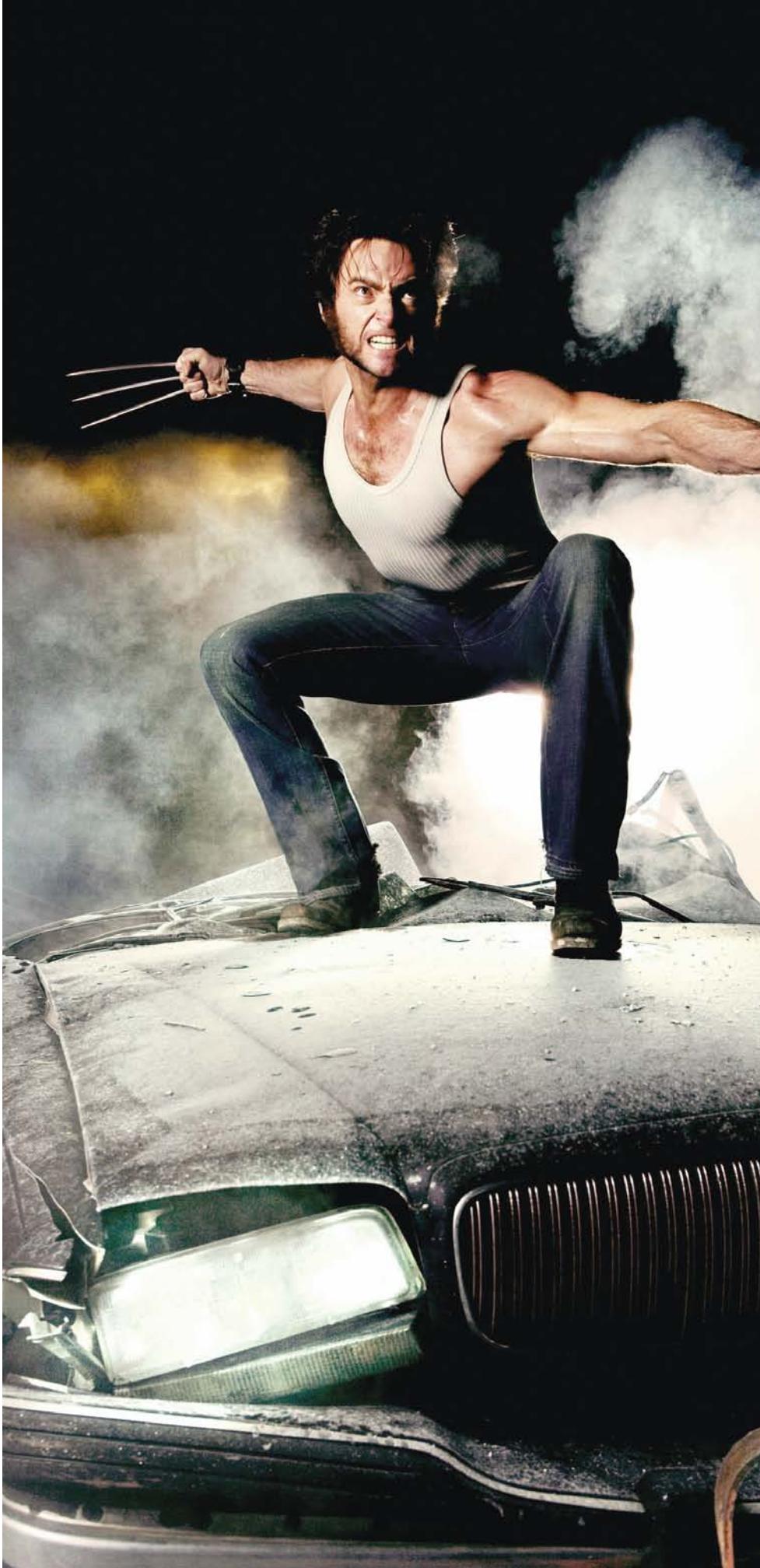
"Certain characters are offered the cure and some voluntarily take it, some don't," explains Jackman. "And I won't say which characters, because I don't want to give away the plot. But you have a character like Rogue — as amazingly powerful as she is, she lives a potentially very lonely life. Rogue is never able to touch anyone, to have a physical relationship, to have children, or is never able to be married, because of her mutant powers. Now, as politically abhorrent as somehow the cure is, it's also humanely, socially and incredibly understandable that a character like that would take it.

"Now, for Wolverine, he's not a political beast in any way shape or form, and in the process of this movie, I think he starts as someone with very little opinion about the cure except for what it means for him," continues Jackman. "Wolverine feels like, 'If you want to take the cure, you take the cure. If you don't, whatever. You do what you want to do and I'll do what I want to do.' So Wolverine is forced, in the course of the movie, to actually work out what the cure is politically, socially, and what his view on it is."

Jackman was pleasantly surprised how easy it was to play the superhero this time. Even when he shot the second film, he says the character felt new to him. "But there's always a moment where you don't know if it's going to click again. The first week of filming I said to Brett, 'Let's just get through it, and I want to watch the monitor with you.' And he did. Brett was great to me from the beginning. So, after the third day, I was like, 'Boom, there he is. There's the Wolverine I know and love.' I don't think all the stuff we did on the first few days was useless, but it took a few days for me to reacquire myself with Wolverine. It was just putting it back on for me."

Although *X-Men: The Last Stand* is being billed as the end of a trilogy, at least two spinoffs are already in the works — Jackman's *Wolverine* and McKellen's *Magneto* are both scheduled for release in 2007.

"Whether you like the *X-Men* films or not, we definitely opened up the floodgates," says Jackman.



Tom Cruise in *Mission: Impossible III*

MAY 5

MISSION: IMPOSSIBLE III

WHO'S IN IT? Tom Cruise,

Philip Seymour Hoffman

WHO DIRECTED? J.J. Abrams (debut)

WHAT'S IT ABOUT? Reigning Best Actor Hoffman makes his action-film debut as the bitter baddie in this third installment of the *Mission: Impossible* franchise. His character has a bone to pick with secret agent Ethan Hunt (Cruise) and payback apparently involves finding and harming Hunt's current squeeze, played by Liv-Tyler-look-a-like Michelle Monaghan. Look for Ving Rhames to return as computer expert Luther Stickell, and new cast members Keri Russell and Jonathan Rhys Myers.

HOOT

WHO'S IN IT? Logan Lerman, Luke Wilson

WHO DIRECTED? Wil Shriner (debut)

WHAT'S IT ABOUT? Lonely teen Roy Eberhardt (Lerman) moves from Montana to the Florida Everglades where he becomes involved in a plot to save an owl habitat from developers. Singer Jimmy Buffett takes a break from *Margaritaville* to appear as a high school science teacher.

MAY 12

JUST MY LUCK

WHO'S IN IT? Lindsay Lohan, Chris Pine

WHO DIRECTED? Donald Petrie
(*Miss Congeniality*)

WHAT'S IT ABOUT? Three years ago Lohan starred opposite Jamie Lee Curtis in *Freaky Friday*, about a mother and daughter who switch bodies after getting identical fortune cookies. Replace bodies with luck, and Curtis with up-and-coming hunk Chris Pine (*Princess Diaries 2*) and you've got the premise for this teen comedy. Ashley (Lohan) has all the luck in the world — she has a great job, rich ▶▶

summer | preview | MAY

▶▶ boyfriends and good clothing karma — while Jake (Pine) can't step off a curb without landing in a puddle. Then they kiss at a party, and their fortunes reverse.

POSEIDON

WHO'S IN IT? Josh Lucas, Kurt Russell

WHO DIRECTED? Wolfgang Petersen (*The Perfect Storm*)

WHAT'S IT ABOUT? You'd think naming a luxury liner after the god of the sea would help its chances — but it didn't work in the 1972 original, *The Poseidon Adventure*, and it's not going to work here. When a cruise ship goes down after being hit by a giant tidal wave, the survivors try to find a way out.

MAY 19

SEE NO EVIL

WHO'S IN IT? Christina Vidal, Kane

WHO DIRECTED? Gregory Dark (*Sex Freaks*)

WHAT'S IT ABOUT? This co-production between Lions Gate and WWE Films stars seven-foot wrestler Kane as a vicious psychopath living in an abandoned hotel. When eight petty criminals show up at the hotel to fulfill their community service duties, he starts doing what psychopaths do. Director Dark makes the wee jump to horror movies from adult films, his bread-and-butter of the 1980s and '90s.



Poseidon's survivors, from left: Josh Lucas, Emmy Rossum and Kurt Russell

OVER THE HEDGE

VOICES: Bruce Willis, Garry Shandling

WHO DIRECTED? Tim Johnson, Karey Kirkpatrick

WHAT'S IT ABOUT? With suburbia encroaching on their idyllic woodlands, a group of animals — including a turtle (Shandling) and raccoon (Bruce Willis) — have to decide whether living with people is an exciting smorgasbord of free food and adventure, or something to be avoided at all costs.

MAY 21

WWE-PAY-PER-VIEW JUDGEMENT DAY

Check www.cineplex.com for theatres where you can watch it live, and to buy tickets.

MAY 26

X-MEN: THE LAST STAND

See Hugh Jackman interview, page 16.

THE DA VINCI CODE

WHO'S IN IT? Tom Hanks,

Audrey Tautou

WHO DIRECTED? Ron Howard

(*Cinderella Man*)

WHAT'S IT ABOUT? First things first.

In a nutshell, author Dan Brown's bestselling potboiler tracks the

complex mental gymnastics of American symbology expert Robert Langdon who has to figure out why a curator who was shot dead in the Louvre used his final moments to leave a cryptic message in his own

blood. He hooks up with the curator's granddaughter, Sophie Neveu (Tautou), also a whip-smart code-cracker, and together they unravel a millennia-old mystery that points to a secret aspect of Christ's life and a secret order sworn to protect that secret. (You see a theme developing, no?)

Let's put aside the controversy for the moment. The big question is: How will the book translate to the screen? On the plus side, it's a fast-paced mystery with a lot of action so there shouldn't be much lag. Also, the prose wasn't exactly the book's selling point (read: the writing was quick and dirty), so the movie won't lose a lot in

that regard. On the down side, in order to crack the code, Langdon has to draw upon buckets of scholarly information and backstory that could very easily come off as clunky exposition.

Back to the controversy, there are umpteen books and websites out there refuting the contentious ideas in the novel. But did you know that one of them was set up by the film's studio, Sony Pictures?

TheDaVinciDialogue.com was created to provide scholars and concerned Christians a place to share their ideas (and thus defer anger) about what some see as a sacrilegious story. Of course, the site (which includes tantalizing info about, and pictures of, places and things in the book) is also one more way to drum up interest.

→ OPENS MAY 19



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JUNE

JACK BLACK PINS DOWN NACHO LIBRE

BY BOB STRAUSS

When we think about masked Mexican wrestlers, the first name that naturally comes to mind is Jack Black.

Yep, the *School of Rock*/Tenacious D sorta musician. The not so athletic son of California rocket scientists. That Jack Black. Hard to imagine the whole Lucha Libre scene (Mexico's WWE) without him.

"I did a lot of wrestling training and a lot of boning up on my Spanish," insists the comic actor, who rattled around the ring in spandex for *Nacho Libre*. "I did meet some real luchadores and I wrestled them," he adds for the doubters. "They kicked my ass many times."

That we believe. But why would one of cinema's fastest-rising comedians, coming off a plum dramatic turn in Peter Jackson's *King Kong* yet, risk certain ridicule, probable physical harm and insulting an entire culture that loves its kitschy masked maulers?

To help a great filmmaker realize his vision, of course. And if anyone screams authentic Latin sports enthusiast more than Black, it would be that Mormon expert on teenage nerdiness, *Napoleon Dynamite* director Jared Hess.

"I'm stoked about it because Jared is f---ing creative and strange," Black enthuses over the phone from a Manhattan hotel. "He picked a spot in Mexico — Oaxaca — for its beauty. I think it'll probably be the most beautiful comedy ever. Comedies usually don't care about the quality of landscape and villages in the background."

Well, whatever they came up with, Hess and Black's film can hardly be more ridiculous than the 1960s Mexican films in which wrestlers took on zombies, aliens, vampires and really scary women.

"It's an entirely Mexican cast, except for me," the actor says. "I'm only half-Mexican in the movie. My mother is a missionary from Scandinavia, my father is a deacon from Mexico. They both die when

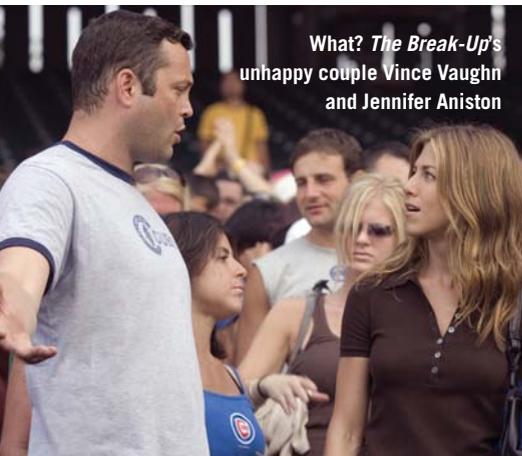


Jack Black (left) with Hector Jimenez in *Nacho Libre*

I'm two years old, so I'm raised in an orphanage. I grow up and I'm the head chef at the orphanage, and everybody hates my cooking. I say, 'It's not my cooking; you guys don't give me money to buy fresh ingredients.' So I come up with this plan to get money to buy good food for the kids. I become a wrestler on the side, in secret, 'cause it's not godlike.... But I do it for the children."

Arch as that sounds, Black genuinely has been nurturing a softer side of late. *School of Rock* and *Shark Tale* won him a whole new generation of child fans, he hosted this year's Kids' Choice Awards, and in March he married musician Tanya Haden. They'd attended high school together, but reconnected only last year at a friend's party.

"I couldn't be more pleased with the way my life and career have turned out," Black says in a rare instance of sounding utterly sincere.



What? *The Break-Up*'s unhappy couple Vince Vaughn and Jennifer Aniston

JUNE 2

THE BREAK-UP

WHO'S IN IT? Jennifer Aniston, Vince Vaughn
WHO DIRECTED? Peyton Reed (*Down With Love*)

WHAT'S IT ABOUT? This highly anticipated romantic comedy takes an ass-backwards approach to the genre by focusing on an unhappy couple unravelling rather than two people falling in love. Bickering couple Gary (Vaughn) and Brooke (Aniston) are ready to call it quits, but neither are willing to move out of their gorgeous condo, which sets the stage for an all-out turf war. Of course, all that fighting and jealousy sure is a turn-on...

JUNE 6

THE OMEN

WHO'S IN IT? Julia Stiles, Liev Schreiber
WHO DIRECTED? John Moore

(Flight of the Phoenix)
WHAT'S IT ABOUT? If you've ever wondered why there aren't too many 30-year-olds named Damien walking around it's because in 1976 *The Omen* was released and the name was suddenly as alluring to prospective parents as Adolf or Idi. In both the original and remake, the new-born spawn of Satan is swapped with the baby son of a Washington politico and his wife who slowly realize their tyke Damien really is a little hellraiser.

JUNE 9

CARS

VOICES: Owen Wilson, Paul Newman

WHO DIRECTED? John Lassiter (*Toy Story 2*)

WHAT'S IT ABOUT? Pixar puts its winning streak on the line with this tale of a cocky stock car by the name of Lightning McQueen (Wilson), who takes an unexpected detour and winds up in the forgotten town of Radiator Springs. There, he meets an assortment of vintage cars who teach him that going fast isn't always such a good thing. Michael Keaton, George Carlin, Bonnie Hunt and Cheech Marin lend their voices to the film, as do real-life driving legends Richard Petty and Darrell Waltrip.

JUNE 11

WWE-PAY-PER-VIEW ECW ONE NIGHT STAND

Check www.cineplex.com for a list of theatres where you can watch it live, and to buy tickets.

JUNE 16

THE FAST AND THE FURIOUS: TOKYO DRIFT

WHO'S IN IT? Lucas Black, Bow Wow

WHO DIRECTED? Justin Lin (*Annapolis*)

WHAT'S IT ABOUT? Vin Diesel ditched after the first film, Paul Walker walked after the sequel, so it's up to Lucas Black (*Friday Night Lights*) to keep this pedal-to-the-metal driving franchise alive. Rebel teen Shaun Boswell (Black) is sent to live with his military uncle in Tokyo where he hooks



Speed's Keanu Reeves and Sandra Bullock reunite for *The Lake House*

up with underground street racers adept at the style of driving known as drifting — you glide and spin your car around tight corners and curves. When Shaun loses a race against the reigning “Drift King,” he becomes the property of the Japanese mafia.

NACHO LIBRE

See Jack Black interview, page 20.

THE LAKE HOUSE

WHO'S IN IT? Sandra Bullock, Keanu Reeves

WHO DIRECTED? Alejandro Agresti

(*A Less Bad World*)

WHAT'S IT ABOUT? Love crosses the space-time continuum with this romantic drama about an unhappy architect (Reeves) who moves into a stunning lake house and becomes pen pals with the female doctor (Bullock) who once lived there. As their relationship

deepens, they discover they are actually living two years apart. This remake of the Korean flick *Siwora* is penned by *Proof's* Pulitzer Prize-winner author David Auburn.

JUNE 23

GARFIELD'S A TALE OF TWO KITTIES

WHO'S IN IT? Breckin Meyer,

Jennifer Love Hewitt

WHO DIRECTED? Tim Hill

(*Max Keebler's Big Move*)

WHAT'S IT ABOUT? The first *Garfield* film raked in almost \$200-million worldwide, which is why we're seeing this sequel. Bill Murray returns to voice the lazy, acerbic fat cat. This time around Garfield and his human master Jon (Meyer) travel to England where Garfield is mistaken for the feline heir to an English castle. ▶▶



▶▶ **CLICK**

WHO'S IN IT? Adam Sandler, Kate Beckinsale
WHO DIRECTED? Frank Coraci (*Around the World in 80 Days*)

WHAT'S IT ABOUT? Talk about your wish fulfillment fantasy, an overworked architect (Sandler) gets his hands on a one-of-a-kind remote control that allows him to pause, rewind and fast forward through his life. Such a promising premise is bolstered by a wonderfully eclectic cast — Beckinsale plays Sandler's love interest, David "Baywatch" Hasselhoff pops up as Sandler's annoying boss, Henry Winkler stars as his dad and Christopher Walken is the nutty scientist responsible for the miraculous remote.

JUNE 25

**WWE-PAY-PER-VIEW
 VENGEANCE**

Check www.cineplex.com for a list of theatres where you can watch it live, and to buy tickets.

JUNE 30

THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA

WHO'S IN IT? Meryl Streep, Anne Hathaway
WHO DIRECTED? David Frankel (*Miami Rhapsody*)
WHAT'S IT'S ABOUT? Tongues wagged and cash



The Devil Wears Prada's
 Meryl Streep looks down on
 assistant Anne Hathaway

registers rang out in 2003 when first-time novelist Lauren Weisberger published *The Devil Wears Prada*, a thinly veiled *roman à clef* about the trials and tribulations of fresh-faced college grad Andrea Sachs (Hathaway), who becomes the assistant to *Runway* magazine's boss from hell Miranda Priestly (Streep). Weisberg had worked as assistant to

Vogue's notoriously demanding editor Anna Wintour, and the resemblance between the two are striking. Interestingly, no Condé Nast publication, which publishes *Vogue*, or any other glossy women's magazine reviewed or mentioned the book in their pages. But look for the mag world's allegiance to Wintour to soften with the film, especially since Wintour has a cameo.

SUPERMAN RETURNS

WHO'S IN IT? Brandon Routh, Kate Bosworth
WHO DIRECTED? Bryan Singer (*X2*)
WHAT'S IT ABOUT? Way back in 1998, the prospect of reviving the *Superman* franchise (which petered out in 1987 with the sadly unremarkable *Superman IV: The Quest for Peace*) was led by director Tim Burton, scriptwriter Kevin Smith and actor Nicolas Cage, who was dying to play the Man of Steel. But since the configurations of such high-profile pictures come and go like the tide in Hollywood, these A-listers were soon history and a list of other possible candidates made the rounds — McG and Brett Rattner were going to direct, Josh Hartnett and

Paul Walker were going to don the blue tights. Finally, in 2004, the pieces fell into place with *X-Men* director Bryan Singer going behind the camera and soap opera actor Brandon Routh grabbing the lead. The film's plot is surprisingly simple — we get a retelling of Superman's life story, from his discovery as an infant inside a space pod in the middle of a Kansas cornfield to his emergence as the world's greatest superhero. The new section of the plot revolves around Superman leaving Earth to search for the remnants of his destroyed home planet, Krypton. He's gone for six years, and when he returns he



discovers Metropolis doesn't need him anymore and his true love, Lois Lane (Bosworth), has moved on without him. The only constant seems to be the

hatred of his archenemy Lex Luthor (Kevin Spacey), who is determined to get rid of Superman once and for all.
 → OPENS JUNE 30



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JULY

PIRATE TALK WITH KEIRA KNIGHTLEY

BY BRUCE KIRKLAND

She loves the *Pirates of the Caribbean* movie franchise, but she hates herself in it: Keira Knightley is her own worst critic. “It’s the first time I’ve ever had to go back to a role,” the 21-year-old English lass says of returning to the screen as the combustible aristocratic beauty Elizabeth in the franchise’s first sequel, *Dead Man’s Chest*. “And it’s weird because I’m my biggest critic, by a mile!”

Knightley, who jumped into the public eye as a wiry soccer player in *Bend It Like Beckham* and now has the prestigious tag “Oscar-nominated” attached to her name after playing another Lizzie in *Pride & Prejudice*, lacks self-confidence — despite, or perhaps because of, growing up as the daughter of actor Will Knightley and playwright Sharmen Macdonald.

“You give me my worst review ever and times it by about 10,” she says in a self-analysis, giving all the *Pirates* credit to the filmmakers and her co-stars, Johnny Depp and Orlando Bloom. “And it’s a huge fault, a huge fault! So, therefore, I possibly hate every performance I’ve done and I’d like to completely change it.

“It is very difficult therefore to go back to a performance that I would like to do completely differently [in the original] and try to keep that kind of continuity with it. But what you do say is that it’s three years on and she’s grown up a bit and I can perhaps fix some of the things [she didn’t like the first time].”

That said, Knightley concedes there is only so much an individual can do in an adventure movie like this, in contrast to the intense responsibility she took on to shape the essence of *Pride & Prejudice*.

“It’s a spectacle,” she says. “It’s a truly different beast, which makes it exciting, and which makes it incredibly boring at points, too. It’s a totally different headspace.”

This new spectacle involves yet another supernatural foe for Captain Jack Sparrow (Depp). It seems he has a debt to pay to Davey Jones, bloodthirsty ruler of the ocean. Jones and his army of sea-phantoms come after Sparrow just as his two pals, Will (Bloom)

and Elizabeth, are about to get married and live happily ever after.

This interview came smack in the middle of the exhausting shoot. Two sequels (the third *Pirates* movie is expected out next May) were shot simultaneously in two 100-day chunks with a six-week break during last fall’s hurricane season, all under the guidance of original *Pirates* director Gore Verbinski. “It *is* my life now,” Knightley grouches with a laugh when talking about how *Pirates* fit into her life. “There isn’t anything else!”

Knightley, despite her smarts, does not claim to know why *Pirates* caught on so fabulously the first time. “It’s still a mystery. But what’s amazing is that there is such a wealth of stories there — the pirating stories. If you can tap into it and do it well, then it’s just...”

She loses the words and moves on to a fresh idea. “What’s clever about it is that it’s got humour for adults and it’s got humour for kids and kids won’t get the stuff that the adults are laughing at. In a funny way, that makes the best kind of kids’ movie.”

Yet making the original was an enormous gamble, she now recalls. “Talk about risk! A) You’re making a pirate movie and that hasn’t worked in God knows how long. B) You’re making a movie based on a Disney theme park ride. C) You’ve got Johnny Depp going mental. So how is this going to work?”

It did work, making some observers leary of sequels. “Why should there not be?” Knightley asks. “You have no idea what is going to happen in the second and I promise you it will surprise you!”





Owen Wilson and Kate Hudson cook up laughs in *You, Me and Dupree*



JULY 5

LITTLE MAN

WHO'S IN IT? Marlon Wayans, Shawn Wayans
WHO DIRECTED? Keenen Ivory Wayans
(White Chicks)

WHAT'S IT ABOUT? Marlon Wayans is clearly trying to utilize the Charlize Theron (*Monster*) theory that a major transformation is the quickest way to an Oscar win. First the six-foot-two African-American actor dressed up like a Paris Hilton clone for the undercover-agent comedy *White Chicks*, and now he's playing a jewellery-robbing little person who's mistaken for a toddler and accidentally adopted by a loving family. Breast milk and rectal thermometer jokes ensue. The shrinkage is courtesy of some pretty cool CGI magic, so if not an Oscar for Wayans, maybe *Little Man* will earn one for special effects.

JULY 7

**PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN:
 DEAD MAN'S CHEST**

See Keira Knightley interview, page 24.

JULY 14

PULSE

WHO'S IN IT? Kristen Bell, Christina Milian
WHO DIRECTED? Jim Sonzero (*War of the Angels*)
WHAT'S IT ABOUT? Bell, best-known as TV's Veronica Mars, gets her first starring role on

the big screen in this — get ready for it — remake of a Japanese horror film. This time, screenwriters from the land of the rising sun offer us a tale about a couple of friends (Bell, Milian) who get a whack of desperate emails from their friend... two days after he committed suicide. Cue the scaary music.

PATHFINDER

WHO'S IN IT? Karl Urban, Moon Bloodgood
WHO DIRECTED? Marcus Nispel (*The Texas Chainsaw Massacre*)

WHAT'S IT ABOUT? Much like *Dances with Wolves*, but with a Viking instead of a Civil War veteran, this bloody drama follows the plight of a young boy (Urban) who is left behind by his Viking clan after they visit North America. (The Vikings actually “discovered” the landmass long before Columbus). The boy is adopted and raised by Native Americans, and years later when the Vikings return to conquer the natives, the boy — who's now a man — rises up against them.

YOU, ME AND DUPREE

WHO'S IN IT? Matt Dillon, Owen Wilson
WHO DIRECTED? Anthony and Joe Russo
(Welcome to Collinwood)

WHAT'S IT ABOUT? After he's fired for taking a week off work to attend his friend Carl's (Dillon) island wedding, Randy Dupree (Wilson) guilts Carl into letting him move in with him and his new wife Molly ▶▶

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When you think about it, life is but a series of moments in which the great ones last forever. They bring a smile to your face. They lighten your step. And the most brilliant thing about them, they're infinite. Here is our list of 101 moments worth living. Think of it as a starting point.

- 01. Catch a fish with your bare hands
- 02. Storm chase a tornado
- 03. Write a best seller
- 04. Break the speed of sound
- 05. Get a piece of art into an exhibition
- 06. Hug a koala bear
- 07. Stand on the Great Wall of China
- 08. Run with the bulls in Spain
- 09. Realize your childhood dream
- 10. Take an award-winning photograph
- 11. Witness an erupting volcano
- 12. Hug the 'Hug Woman' in India
- 13. Sit front row at a championship game
- 14. Shake hands with your idol
- 15. Go whale watching off the coast of Tofino
- 16. Stay in the best suite at a five-star hotel
- 17. Ski the Vallee Blanche, France
- 18. Pull off the perfect practical joke
- 19. Visit the lost city of Machu Picchu, Peru
- 20. Score a hole in one
- 21. Scuba dive off the Great Barrier Reef
- 22. Spend a night in an igloo you've made
- 23. Leave a job you hate
- 24. Milk a cow
- 25. Experience weightlessness
- 26. See the Aurora Borealis
- 27. Skate the Rideau Canal
- 28. Go white water rafting
- 29. Ride a motorcycle
- 30. Dog-sled through the Canadian Yukon
- 31. Give a homeless person \$100
- 32. Ride the world's biggest roller coaster
- 33. Spend the holidays volunteering in a soup kitchen
- 34. Reach 100 years of age
- 35. Ride a camel
- 36. Canoe the Nahanee River
- 37. Hike the West Coast Trail
- 38. Surf the perfect wave
- 39. Visit the Taj Mahal
- 40. Make out on a beach
- 41. See your favourite band from the first row
- 42. Plant a tree
- 43. Plan a surprise getaway to Paris
- 44. Laugh until your cheeks hurt
- 45. Take a flying safari over Skeleton Coast, Namibia
- 46. Land a glider plane
- 47. Swim with dolphins
- 48. Sample all 31 flavours
- 49. Trek the Milford Track in New Zealand
- 50. Get a tattoo on your _____
- 51. Stare a wild owl in the eye
- 52. Climb to Everest base camp
- 53. Skinny dip at noon
- 54. Make a fire without matches
- 55. Do the Haka
- 56. Do nothing
- 57. Run a marathon
- 58. Do amateur night at a comedy club
- 59. Enjoy a Daiquiri in Havana, Cuba
- 60. High-speed mountain bike down Whistler Mountain
- 61. Set a world record and get it into the books
- 62. Get measured for a bespoke suit

- 63. Go swimming in the thermal spas of Iceland
- 64. Spend a night in a tree house
- 65. Sail the open seas and navigate by the stars
- 66. Throw a dart in a map and travel to where it lands
- 67. Attend your high school reunion
- 68. Go down in a shark cage
- 69. Teach a child to ride a bike
- 70. Witness the one-legged rowers of Inle lake
- 71. Pay down the last dollar on a mortgage
- 72. Visit Dhoni Mighili for a 'holistic heavenly bliss' body rub
- 73. Bungee jump
- 74. Visit Angkor Wat, Cambodia
- 75. Save someone's life
- 76. Travel far, far away in a hot air balloon
- 77. Helicopter over the Grand Canyon
- 78. Rent a convertible on a sunny day
- 79. Set sail in historic Lunenburg, Nova Scotia
- 80. Join in the tomato fight in Tomatina, Spain
- 81. Dance like no one is watching, in public
- 82. Drive across Canada
- 83. Learn another language
- 84. Run with the migrating caribou
- 85. Walk a tightrope
- 86. Kiss a complete stranger
- 87. Walk down a red carpet
- 88. Play a part in your favourite TV show
- 89. Make the front page of a national newspaper
- 90. Watch a meteor shower from a mountaintop
- 91. Conquer your worst fear
- 92. Ride a mechanical bull
- 93. Do the hustle
- 94. Last one round in the ring with a professional boxer
- 95. Drink wine on the Spanish steps
- 96. Live to be a Great, Great Grandparent
- 97. Spend a week by yourself away from all forms of civilization
- 98. Cliff dive in the Adriatic Sea
- 99. Skydive
- 100. Drive the Autobahn in a really, really fast car
- 101. Own a Lexus



▶▶ (Kate Hudson). At first Molly's annoyed, but when Dupree becomes the most interesting man around, it's Carl who has the problem.

JULY 21

ONCE IN A LIFETIME

WHO'S IN IT? Shep Messing, Carlos Alberto
WHO DIRECTED? John Dower, Paul Crowder
WHAT'S IT ABOUT? This documentary travels back to the early 1970s to track the infancy of soccer in America. That's when Warner Brothers bigwig Steve Ross came up with the idea of bringing the sport loved around the world to the U.S. The scheme was a pathetic failure until the New York Cosmos signed Brazilian superstar Pele for \$5-million. If the sports angle doesn't get you, there are also lots of stories about sex, debauchery and hanging out at Studio 54.

MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND

WHO'S IN IT? Uma Thurman, Luke Wilson
WHO DIRECTED? Ivan Reitman (*Evolution*)
WHAT'S IT ABOUT? Bad bit of luck for regular guy Matt Saunders (Wilson). He has no idea that his girlfriend (Thurman) is a superhero...until he breaks up with her for being too needy. That's when G-Girl uses her superpowers to humiliate him beyond human imagination. Look for Rainn Wilson — who plays awkward suck-up Dwight Schrute in NBC's *The Office* — as Wilson's best friend, Vaughn.

JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE

WHO'S IN IT? Jesse Metcalfe, Ashanti Douglas
WHO DIRECTED? Betty Thomas (*I Spy*)
WHAT'S IT ABOUT? Three high-school gals who realize they're all dating the same cheating stud (Metcalfe) come up with a plot to bring him down a notch.

LADY IN THE WATER

WHO'S IN IT? Paul Giamatti, Bryce Dallas Howard
WHO DIRECTED? M. Night Shyamalan (*The Village*)
WHAT'S IT ABOUT? Based on a story Shyamalan made up to entertain his kids, this fantasy follows Cleveland Heep (Giamatti), the inconsequential superintendent of a housing complex, who discovers a beautiful woman named Story (Howard) living in the tunnels beneath the building's swimming pool. Turns out she is actually a "narf" — which means she's not real, but a character in a bedtime story who has escaped into our world.

JULY 23

**WWE-PAY-PER-VIEW
 GREAT AMERICAN BASH**

Check www.cineplex.com for a list of theatres where you can watch it live, and to buy tickets.

JULY 28

MIAMI VICE

WHO'S IN IT? Colin Farrell, Jamie Foxx
WHO DIRECTED? Michael Mann (*Collateral*)
WHAT'S IT ABOUT? Transported 20 years into the future by Michael Mann's time machine, TV's Crocket (originally Don Johnson, now Farrell) and Tubbs (Philip Michael Thomas in the '80s, Foxx here) have traded pastel blazers for modern duds and put socks on under their shoes. It's present-day Miami

and the vice squad detectives are trying to nab a group of drug dealers responsible for three murders. This is the third time Mann and Foxx have worked together after *Ali* and *Collateral*, and they've already signed to do a fourth, *Damage Control*, about a young lawyer trying to protect the reputations of some of his favourite athletes.

BARNYARD

VOICES: Kevin James, Courteney Cox
WHO DIRECTED? Steve Oedekerk (*Smart Alex*)
WHAT'S IT ABOUT? Just as we'd all suspected, when there are no humans watching barnyard animals walk on two legs, speak English and are responsible for all sorts of hijinks. James (TV's *The King of Queens*) voices Otis the cow, a particularly mischievous bovine who needs to learn when enough is enough.



MONSTER HOUSE

VOICES: Steve Buscemi, Maggie Gyllenhaal
WHO DIRECTED? Gil Kenan (debut)
WHAT'S IT ABOUT? Three neighbourhood kids — D.J., Chowder and Jenny — discover that the spooky old house on their block isn't inhabited by monsters — it is a living, breathing monster. But when they try to warn the adults they don't listen and just become more monster food for the insatiable real-estate-shaped creature.

The kids are voiced by relatively unknown youngsters, but the supporting adults owe their pipes to an eclectic group

of comic and indie actors, including Steve Buscemi, Maggie Gyllenhaal, Jon Heder, Catherine O'Hara, Fred Willard, Jason Lee and Kathleen Turner.

If the film's ultra-real animation reminds you of *The Polar Express* that's because it was created by the same company, ImageMovers, using the same motion-capture technology (think ping-pong ball-shaped sensors stuck on an actor in all the right places). But the folks at ImageMovers seem to have listened to complaints that characters in *The Polar Express* (including several

versions of Tom Hanks) were so realistic they were creepy. The characters in this film look more like claymation dolls than real people.

And, like *The Polar Express*, this film has also been given the 3-D treatment and will be available in that format where theatres allow. Unfortunately, right now that means only two theatres in Canada — SilverCity Mississauga and Colossus Woodbridge (both in the Toronto area) — but sources say there may be a few more theatres ready before the film's release date.

➔ OPENS JULY 21



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AUGUST

IDLEWILD'S ANDRE BENJAMIN KICKS IT OLD SCHOOL

BY BOB STRAUSS

Though he's still best known as hip-hop superduo OutKast's flamboyant Andre 3000, Andre Benjamin is making an increasingly bigger name for, well, his real-named self in the movies. Not part of the plan, explains the artist at a Century City hotel suite in L.A.

"Actually, before I started doing music I was in the drama troupe in school," says the Atlanta-based Benjamin, decked out in one of the typically eye-catching outfits (bright green shirt, striped tie tucked between its buttons, straw hat and scuffed shoes just to keep it real) that has earned him Best Dressed and Sexiest Male honours from fashion magazines and — it's true — a vegetarian group.

"It was just something to do, I never said I wanted to be an actor. Then I got into music and I started to do videos, and I got calls from different producers to come in and read for roles. So I moved out to L.A. for a year and a half, took a lot of meetings and a couple of acting workshops. Got into it."

Acclaimed work in *Be Cool* and *Four Brothers* resulted. And finally, come August, we expect to see Benjamin's most ambitious film to date,

Idlewild, which he describes as "a 1930s period piece. It's kinda like a love story/thriller/gangster/musical/everything type of movie."

Set in a small Georgia town, the film stars Benjamin and OutKast's other half, Big Boi (Antwan Andre Patton), as speakeasy partners in trouble with the law, the mob and, of course, women. Written and directed by the group's music video helmer Bryan Barber, *Idlewild* was originally planned as a cable TV production. But as its scope and budget grew, so did its theatrical prospects. Delayed release dates for the movie and the accompanying soundtrack album have been attributed to the project's expanding artistic vision.

Part of that vision, Benjamin hopes, will capture the spirit of the film's time as well as its look and sounds.

"I'm a fan of that era," he says. "The 1930s and '40s, for black Americans, was probably when heads were the highest. They dressed well, it was all about family, it was all about respect. Gentlemen, ladies; it was fun to get back to that. I feel like some of those morals, they could work a little bit now."

Benjamin himself gave up excessive drinking, smoking and eating bad food some years ago. After breaking up with Erykah Badu, with whom he has a child, he wrote the song "Sorry Miss Jackson," in which he apologized to his ex's mother. And if you spot him around Hollywood these days, it'll more likely be at a film festival screening than a raucous party or noisy nightclub.

"Even now, in social situations, I'll pretty much just go to a corner and watch what's going on," the popular music star explains. "I don't talk a lot, I'm never really the life of the party. My work is entertainment, and I think attention is a by-product of it, but I really don't like to be the centre of attention. But it's not like I have a bad time at parties or anything, I can get fun out of watching everybody else."

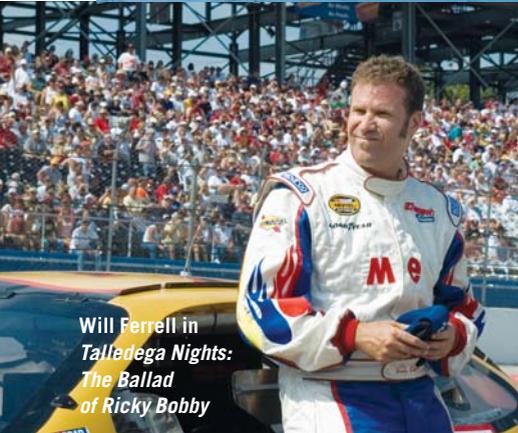
When it's time to put on the Andre 3000 whacko persona, well, that may be work, but it's a kick too.

"Andre 3000 is the total opposite of me, and it takes me a minute to get into that space," Benjamin admits. "People watching a video like 'Hey Ya' think, like, 'He's a wild and crazy guy.' But really, I'm not. I'm more like a kid playing dress-up in the mirror and having fun."





Ant Bully



Will Ferrell in *Talladega Nights: The Ballad of Ricky Bobby*

AUGUST 4

TALLADEGA NIGHTS: THE BALLAD OF RICKY BOBBY

WHO'S IN IT? Will Ferrell, John C. Reilly

WHO DIRECTED? Adam McKay (*Anchorman: The Legend of Ron Burgundy*)

WHAT'S IT ABOUT? It's been reported that this film's producers made their pitch to Hollywood studios with the simple, "Six words: Will Ferrell as a NASCAR driver." Who knows if the story's true, but you sure can appreciate the appeal of seeing Ferrell play an obnoxious, red-state doofus who falls to pieces when a hotshot French Formula One driver (Sacha Baron Cohen) threatens his crown as NASCAR's greatest star. However, it may be character actor

Reilly (*Magnolia*, *Chicago*) who walks away with the most laughs playing Ferrell's thick-as-molasses sidekick Cal.

ANT BULLY

VOICES: Julia Roberts, Zach Tyler

WHO DIRECTED? John A. Davis

(*Jimmy Neutron: Boy Genius*)

WHAT'S IT ABOUT? Lucas Nickle (Tyler) is the new kid on the block, and as the neighbourhood newbie he becomes the target of the local bully. In frustration, he vents his anger on the ant hills in his yard. Little does he know the ants, who call Lucas "The Destroyer," have come up with a magic potion that shrinks the kid down to their miniscule size. Now, with the help of a compassionate ant (Roberts), Lucas learns the cooperative ways of the ant colony. But will he be spared the wrath of the angry ant council and the Queen Ant (Meryl Streep)?

AUGUST 11

ZOOM

WHO'S IN IT? Tim Allen, Courteney Cox

WHO DIRECTED? Ken Kwapis

(*The Beautician and the Beast*)

WHAT'S IT ABOUT? Based on author Jason Lethcoe's graphic novel *Zoom's Academy for the Super Gifted*, this family film stars Allen as Captain Zoom, a former superhero

entrusted with teaching a bunch of kids how to use their various superpowers. If you think the story sounds like *Sky High* or the *X-Men* movies, you're not alone. In June 2005, Twentieth Century Fox and Marvel Comics sued *Zoom's* filmmakers Sony Pictures and Revolution Studios, citing they ripped off elements from their *X-Men* movies. However, it seemed what really irked them was *Zoom's* original opening date, May 13, two weeks before the release of *X-Men: The Last Stand*. Sony and Revolution made a few changes to the script, moved the movie's opening date to August and the suit was dropped.

WORLD TRADE CENTER

WHO'S IN IT? Nicolas Cage, Michael Pena

WHO DIRECTED? Oliver Stone (*Alexander*)

WHAT'S IT ABOUT? No stranger to controversy, Stone delves into the emotional rubble of 9/11 to bring us a tale of survival. Port Authority officers John McLoughlin (Cage) and William J. Jimeno (Pena) raced into the World Trade Center when the first building was hit to look for survivors. However, when the building collapsed they themselves became trapped under tons of debris for a harrowing 24 hours before being rescued. According to Stone, the film has absolutely no political bent and is simply about the heroic effort to save two lives. ▶▶

▶▶ **ACCEPTED**

WHO'S IN IT? Justin Long, Blake Lively

WHO DIRECTED? Steve Pink (debut)

WHAT'S IT ABOUT? High school senior Bartleby Gaines (Long) is in a jam. He's been rejected by every college he's applied to, and his parents are beginning to freak out. So, to avoid any more hassles, he invents an imaginary college and whips up a fake acceptance letter, which of course thrills mom and pop. But how long can Bartleby fake out his family?

AUGUST 18

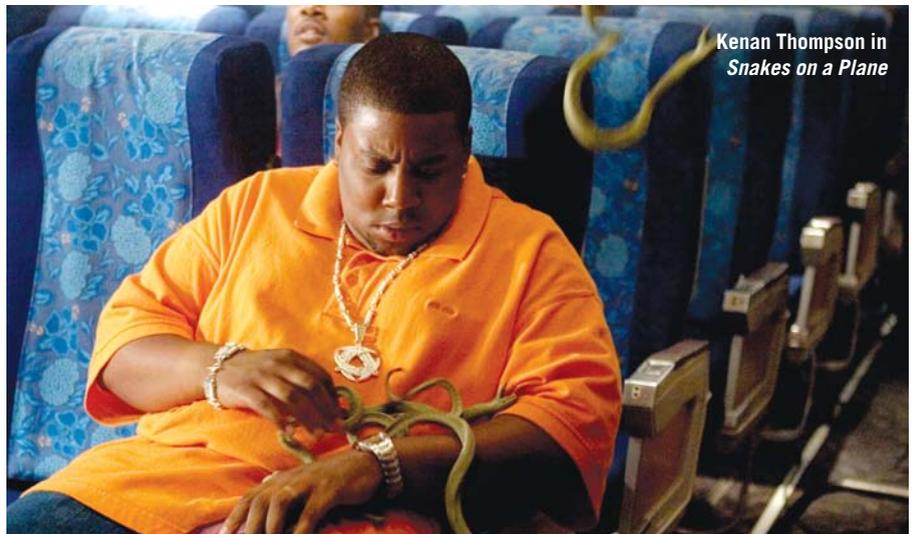
SNAKES ON A PLANE

WHO'S IN IT? Samuel L. Jackson,

Julianna Margulies

WHO DIRECTED? David R. Ellis (*Cellular*)

WHAT'S IT ABOUT? Samuel L. Jackson supposedly agreed to star in this flick based on the name alone — a campy title for a campy comedy/thriller about an FBI agent (Jackson) escorting a witness on his way to testify against a mob boss. The Mafioso's brilliant plan to silence the witness: plant a bunch of venomous snakes on board the plane and hope one of them bites the guy, of course! The buzz has been building for



Kenan Thompson in *Snakes on a Plane*

this mindless bit o' summer fun that should keep back-to-school thoughts at bay for at least 90 minutes.

CLERKS II

WHO'S IN IT? Jeff Anderson, Brian O'Halloran

WHO DIRECTED? Kevin Smith (*Jersey Girl*)

WHAT'S IT ABOUT? It's been 12 years since we last laid eyes on Randal (Anderson) and Dante (O'Halloran), the laid-back variety

store clerks from Smith's breakout hit *Clerks*. In this sequel, the two New Jersey fellas leave their dead-end jobs only to get other dead-end jobs working at a Mooby's franchise (think Disney meets McDonalds), where they finally realize they're letting their lives slip away. If you're worried Smith has forsaken gross-out guffaws for grown-up drama, fuhgetaboutit, this baby is full of immature gags and crude laughs. ▶▶

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summer | preview | AUGUST

▶▶ THE NIGHT LISTENER

WHO'S IN IT? Robin Williams, Rory Culkin
WHO DIRECTED? Patrick Stettner (*Flux*)
WHAT'S IT ABOUT? Despite the fact that Gabriel Noone (Williams) hosts a popular radio show, his personal life is a mess. He seeks solace by beginning a telephone relationship with his biggest fan, a teenager named Pete (Culkin), who draws Gabriel into his troubled life. Based on the book by Armistead Maupin.

AUGUST 25

HOW TO EAT FRIED WORMS

WHO'S IN IT? Luke Benwald, Tom Cavanaugh
WHO DIRECTED? Bob Dolman (*Banger Sisters*)
WHAT'S IT ABOUT? Based on the kids' book by Thomas Rockwell (son of painter Norman), this family film finds 11-year-old Billy (Benwald) accepting a dare that would require him to eat 10 worms in a day, and we're not talking gummi worms either.

DOA: DEAD OR ALIVE

WHO'S IN IT? Devon Aoki, Jaime Pressly
WHO DIRECTED? Corey Yuen (*The Transporter*)
WHAT'S IT ABOUT? Japanese videogame creator Tomonobu Itagaki's arcade-style game (sexy babes beating the crap out of each other) gets a cinematic redo. Expect the bounce factor to be just as integral to the character and story development on the big screen.

CROSSOVER

WHO'S IN IT? Wesley Jonathan, Anthony Mackie
WHO DIRECTED? Preston A. Whitmore II (*The Walking Dead*)
WHAT'S IT ABOUT? Basketball proves the way out for pals Noah (Jonathan) and Tech (Mackie). But while Noah is using his wicked skills at UCLA to earn a pre-med degree, Tech is slicing them up on the hardball courts in his neighbourhood while trying to earn his high school diploma.

IDLEWILD

See Andre Benjamin interview, page 30.

BEERFEST

WHO'S IN IT? Paul Soter, Erik Stolhanske
WHO DIRECTED? Jay Chandrasekhar (*The Dukes of Hazzard*)
WHAT'S IT ABOUT? Two American brothers travel to Germany's Oktoberfest to spread their dead grandfather's ashes. While partaking in the festivities they stumble upon a secret society that performs ancient, hallowed beer-drinking rituals. These Bud Light guys have no idea who they are up against.

AUGUST 27

WWE-PAY-PER-VIEW SUMMERSLAM

Check www.cineplex.com for theatres where you can watch it live, and to buy tickets.

APOCALYPTO

WHO'S IN IT? Rudy Youngblood, Dalia Hernández
WHO DIRECTED? Mel Gibson (*The Passion of the Christ*)

WHAT'S IT ABOUT? You can't blame Mel Gibson for feeling like Scarlett O'Hara. After *The Passion of the Christ* brought in \$612-million (!) worldwide, he was the belle of the Hollywood ball, and beset upon by studio suitors looking to partner with him on any movie he wanted to make. Some of them were probably thinking, "Well, at least he got that crazy let's-make-a-superviolent-movie-in-a-dead-language crap out of his system." Oops.

With *Apocalypto*, Gibson wanders into even more violent and more obscure historical territory than with *Passion*. Set some time after 900 AD, the movie focuses on the twilight of Mexico's Maya civilization — a society whose achievements included conceiving the notion of zero and building grand cities, but whose darker side promoted war-mongering and human sacrifices. Gibson's film, spoken in the Yucatec Mayan language, focuses on a man named Jungle Paw (American native dancer/performer Youngblood), who becomes caught up in the bloodthirsty ways of his leaders. That's not much to go on, but any Gibson fan should know this flick will cast aside plot intricacies in favour of heart-stopping action, and maybe even a few heart-ripping human sacrifices. → OPENS AUGUST 4



CHECK WWW.CINEPLEX.COM FOR SHOWTIMES AND LOCATIONS

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

VI

THE BEHEADING

Pouring a Stella Artois takes patience and a little skill with a knife. In other words, as the frothy head foams over the edge of the chalice, your barman should gently cut it off. Doing so prevents the beer from going flat too quickly. It's also just one of nine steps involved in an age-old ritual we like barmen to observe when pouring it. Regrettably, you won't find this attention to detail everywhere. But you'll always find it at our Stella Artois Gold Standard Establishments. Handpicked from a selection of thousands of bars and restaurants, each of these venues ensures that your Stella Artois tastes exactly as it should: perfect. Learn more at StellaArtois.com.



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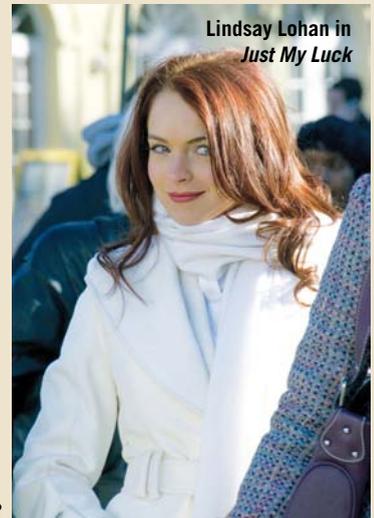
see in-store for details

HMV

trivia |

famoustrivia

1 Lindsay Lohan plays a socialite whose perpetually good fortune turns bad in *Just My Luck*. In which family film did she have the good fortune to make her big-screen debut with two roles (as identical twins) in 1998?



Lindsay Lohan in *Just My Luck*

2 Ving Rhames resumes the role of computer hacker Luther Stickell in *Mission: Impossible III*. What is "Ving" short for?

3 Eugene Levy provides the voice of Lew the porcupine in the animated comedy *Over the Hedge*. With whom did Levy co-write the following movies — *Waiting for Guffman*, *Best in Show*, *A Mighty Wind* and the upcoming *For Your Consideration*?

4 Wolfgang Petersen, who seems to have an obsession with doomed sea vessels, directs *Poseidon*, a remake of *The Poseidon Adventure*. Name one of his two previous movies about ships that went down.



Poseidon

5 What honour does Ian McKellen have in common with his character, Leigh Teabing, from *The Da Vinci Code*?



Ian McKellen in *The Da Vinci Code*

6 *X-Men: The Last Stand* comes out this month. Which one of the following mutants was *not* born in Canada — Anna Paquin (Rogue), Shawn Ashmore (Iceman), James Marsden (Cyclops), Ellen Page (Shadowcat) or Daniel Cudmore (Colossus)?

7 Jack Black plays a Mexican wrestler in *Nacho Libre*. He also plays in a mock rock band that has a feature film in the works. Name it.

answers

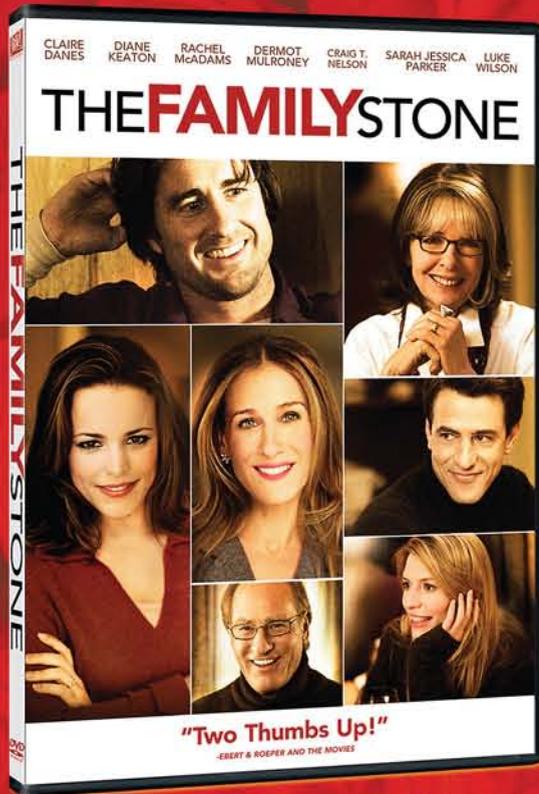
1. *The Parent Trap* 2. Irving 3. Christopher Guest
 4. *Das Boot* or *The Perfect Storm* 5. They've both
 been knighted 6. James Marsden 7. Tenacious D

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makes you
Brave

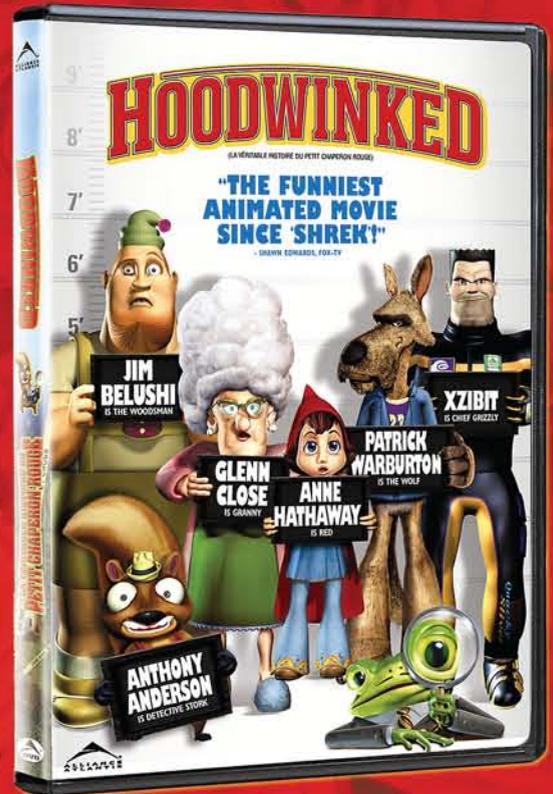


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THIS YEAR, MOT AS LONG AS



MAY 2



MAY 2

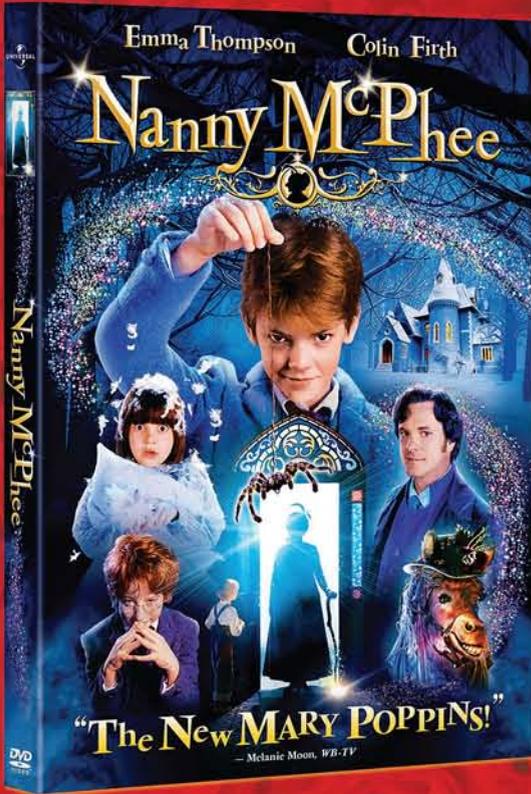


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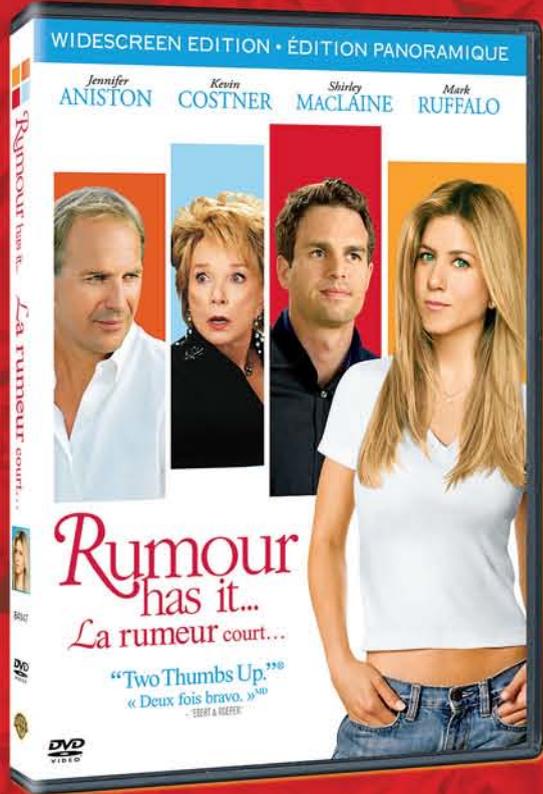


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MAY 9



MAY 9



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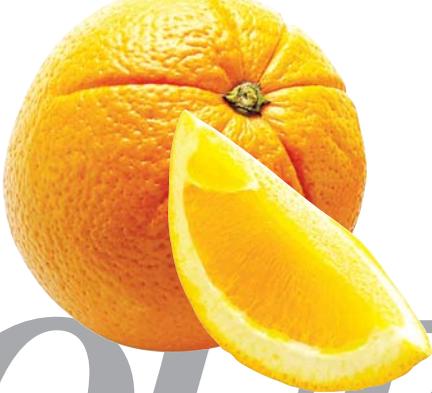


SECTION EIGHT



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Fresh

SQUEEZED

The colour orange juices up summer whites | **BY LIZA HERZ**

POOR ORANGE.

Mocked and maligned as a bad '70s colour — used for prison jumpsuits or fast food joint decor (the better to encourage patrons to leave

quickly), orange has suffered many indignities.

But now orange is finally getting the positive attention it deserves. This season, Phoebe Philo at Chloé,

Behnaz Sarafpour and Oscar de la Renta all showed vivid, solid-orange garments while Jean-Paul Gaultier created this season's standout look, the already iconic

Hermès goddess dress (right).

The timing is perfect. With all the whites and neutrals in store for summer, it only makes sense to add some vibrant, saturated colour to the mix. And while there were plenty of neon brights on the runways we humbly submit that orange is the most wearable and flexible, a zippy bright that never descends into cheap retro disco (like say, electric blue patent wedgies).

A jolt of summer citrus can prevent your subtle neutrals (the wheats, linens and taupes) from veering into sloppy hippie territory. Try accessorizing ruffled linen (which can run the risk of looking shapeless) with an orange leather tote bag (Hogan, pricey) or our more wallet-friendly choice (Jeanne Lottie, not pricey and Canadian to boot).

Orange can also take centre stage when paired with white (observe how orange keeps this Lacoste dress [left] from looking like you took a wrong turn on your way to the tennis court) but it also plays well with other colours like red and deep yellow, which can be very Buddhist, very stylish. With all this attention, we predict that orange will now be considered a neutral like red. You heard it here first.

Trust us.





1

2

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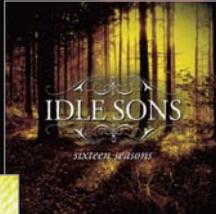
4

5

6

- 1 Banish those heavy perfumes until the fall. Try **Davidoff Cool Water Woman Summer Fizz** (\$59, fine fragrance counters), a limited edition summer-only take on their classic oceanic fragrance, but juiced with citrus and mint for humidity-bashing zip.
- 2 We love this Coco-Chanel-on-acid orange **Canvas Tote** (Jeanne Lottie, \$90, jeanelottie.com for stores). So if you won't tell anyone that it's actually a diaper bag, neither will we.
- 3 Pair this silk/cashmere **Apricot Pullover** from Penguin (\$125) with khakis for day or a white skirt for evening. Perfect.
- 4 We don't actually believe that ugly is the new pretty. We think these comfy **Crocs Clogs** (\$35, Roots), a favourite of stars like new mum Jennifer Garner, are actually kinda cool. Plus they give good support, are vented for summer wear and rugged enough for the pavement or the wilds.
- 5 Not orange, but still in the citrus family. Get started on those summery highlights now with **John Frieda Lemon Lights Highlighter** (\$10, drugstores), an easy to use lemonade-scented gel that works with the sun's heat to gradually give hair a subtle glow.
- 6 Warning: not a foodstuff. With ingredients like olive oil and Sicilian blood orange extract, **Tarocco Conditioning Treatment** (\$12, Caryl Baker Visage salons) will leave your hair soft and nourished and your shower smelling like an orange grove.

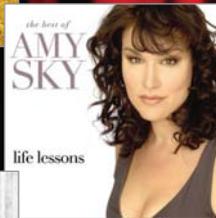
What's on the Radio?



IDLE SONS
Sixteen Seasons



CORINNE BAILEY RAE
Corinne Bailey Rae



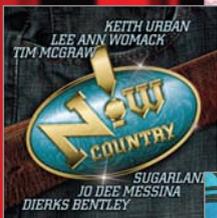
AMY SKY
Life Lessons



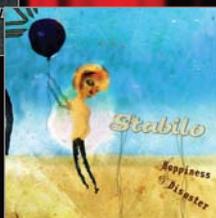
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SEXSMITH WORKS HARD FOR THE TIME BEING | BY INGRID RANDOJA

Ron Sexsmith *really* likes to write songs. In the past 10 years the Toronto-based singer/songwriter has released 10 CDs, and when you take into account that his former record label sat on some of his completed albums for up to two years, his output could have been even greater.

His latest effort, *Time Being* (in stores May 16), is yet another heartfelt masterwork. As usual, Sexsmith's simply written lyrics blend seamlessly with weaving melodies. And, on this album, there's an abundance of sad sounding tunes — but when you listen closely to the song's words you realize he's telling listeners that there's always hope and to sit tight, things will get better.

"I think that's been a theme through a lot of my records," says Sexsmith on the line from his Toronto home. "The songs become sort of pep talks for myself, I try to write encouraging words.

"But also on this record there's a preoccupation with mortality as well. I had a couple of friends who passed away in the last couple of years, some high school buddies, childhood friends. I think that was on my mind in some of the writing, so it's a little darker lyrically."

The 42-year-old St. Catharines, Ontario, native has accumulated a very devoted following — people attracted to his songs, mellow voice and unassuming attitude. But on *Time Being*, Sexsmith takes an out-of-character swipe at the vagaries of



modern music consumption with the tune "Jazz at the Bookstore," which asks, does music deserve to be marketed alongside scented candles and chocolate-covered coffee beans?

"I had a lot of things on my mind when I wrote that song," says Sexsmith. "I was in a coffee shop — I was doing my laundry around the corner — and I hear this great old song, "Rock Island Line" by Leadbelly, and then all of a sudden you hear the coffee grinder drowning it out. That became the first line of the song, 'Leadbelly's in the background.'

"I went back to the laundromat to write the lyrics and started to think

that a lot of these places — Starbucks, Chapters — are kinda white, middle-class environments, and when you go into these places you hear, in the background, all this great blues and jazz music. But it's like wallpaper for people who are on their laptops drinking their lattes. But that music was once dangerous and sexy, and it's been overtaken with this fake sophistication.

"I was trying to write a kinda humorous take on that, and myself as well. I have coffee at home, but I'm like a zombie going to Starbucks for a coffee every morning, I'm just as addicted as the next person."



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FILLING THE X-MEN GAPS

New title has details about what happened between the second and third flicks | BY SCOTT GARDNER



X-MEN: THE OFFICIAL MOVIE GAME

DS, GBA, GC, PC, PS2, X360

The latest entry in a long line of X-Men-themed games is designed to bridge the gap between 2003's big screen *X2: X-Men United* and this month's blockbuster-in-waiting *X-Men: The Last Stand*.

To make sure the game's story is up to the task, publisher Activision spent the big bucks for a story co-written by Zak Penn, the screenwriter of both *X2* and the new movie, and legendary comic book writer Chris Claremont, editorial director for Marvel Comics, who

also wrote *The Uncanny X-Men* for 17 years. Although you certainly don't need to play the game to follow the new movie, it will provide some additional depth since it explains some of the changes that have been made to the cinematic series.

Unlike many previous *X-Men* games, which featured large numbers of playable characters, *X-Men: TOMG* focuses on just three mutant heroes: Wolverine, Nightcrawler and Iceman. While some fans might be disappointed that their personal favourite didn't make the cut, having three unique characters with fully realized powers should make a stronger game than a dozen that are underused and too similar.

Assisted occasionally by other X-Men, the three main characters will be featured in levels and environments that were created specifically to show off their

powers, with everyone's favourite violent misanthrope, Wolverine (who comes complete with a "rage gauge" that powers up during intense melees), getting a little more screen time than his comrades.

Iceman's primary mode of transportation is a path of ice that he shoots in front of him, setting him up for what the developers call "combat snowboarding." He'll be able to move very quickly and with a great deal of agility.

Finally, there's Nightcrawler, whose levels blend light combat with platforming and stealth elements and, most importantly, the ability to teleport. The blue guy can "bamph" from one spot to another while simultaneously moving and attacking. He even sticks to walls, allowing him to reach higher places and move through platform-like levels.

HITMAN: BLOOD MONEY

PC, PS2, XBOX

The fourth installment of the bestselling, critically acclaimed *Hitman* series finds Agent 47, the bald-headed, cold-eyed killer, on the run after other assassins from his agency, the ICA, are systematically killed.

The series continues to emphasize stealth over mindless blasting. If you make it through a mission silent, unseen and deadly, you'll get a big box of cash. However if you leave behind a bloody mess, the agency actually subtracts the cost of cleaning up after you from your payment. Also, the more press coverage



you receive, and the more witnesses who spot you, the more notorious you become, making you easier to catch next time.

TIMESHIFT PC, XBOX, X360

You are Colonel Michael Swift in this sci-fi first-person shooter, recruited by the U.S. government to test a new time-control device. Returning to the present after a brief visit to the 1900s, Swift finds himself in a far different world than the one he left behind. Now an enemy of the totalitarian state he must battle his way out of this new world and restore history to its rightful path.

Along with plenty of shooting action, the big twist is that you possess the technology to slow down, freeze or reverse time. But rather than a straight pause and rewind, manipulating time affects everything in the environment except you, so you can dodge bullets and change position in mid-firefight to surprise the enemy.

OVER G FIGHTERS X360

A few years from now, global peace and security is protected by a united world air force, but that peace is threatened by a

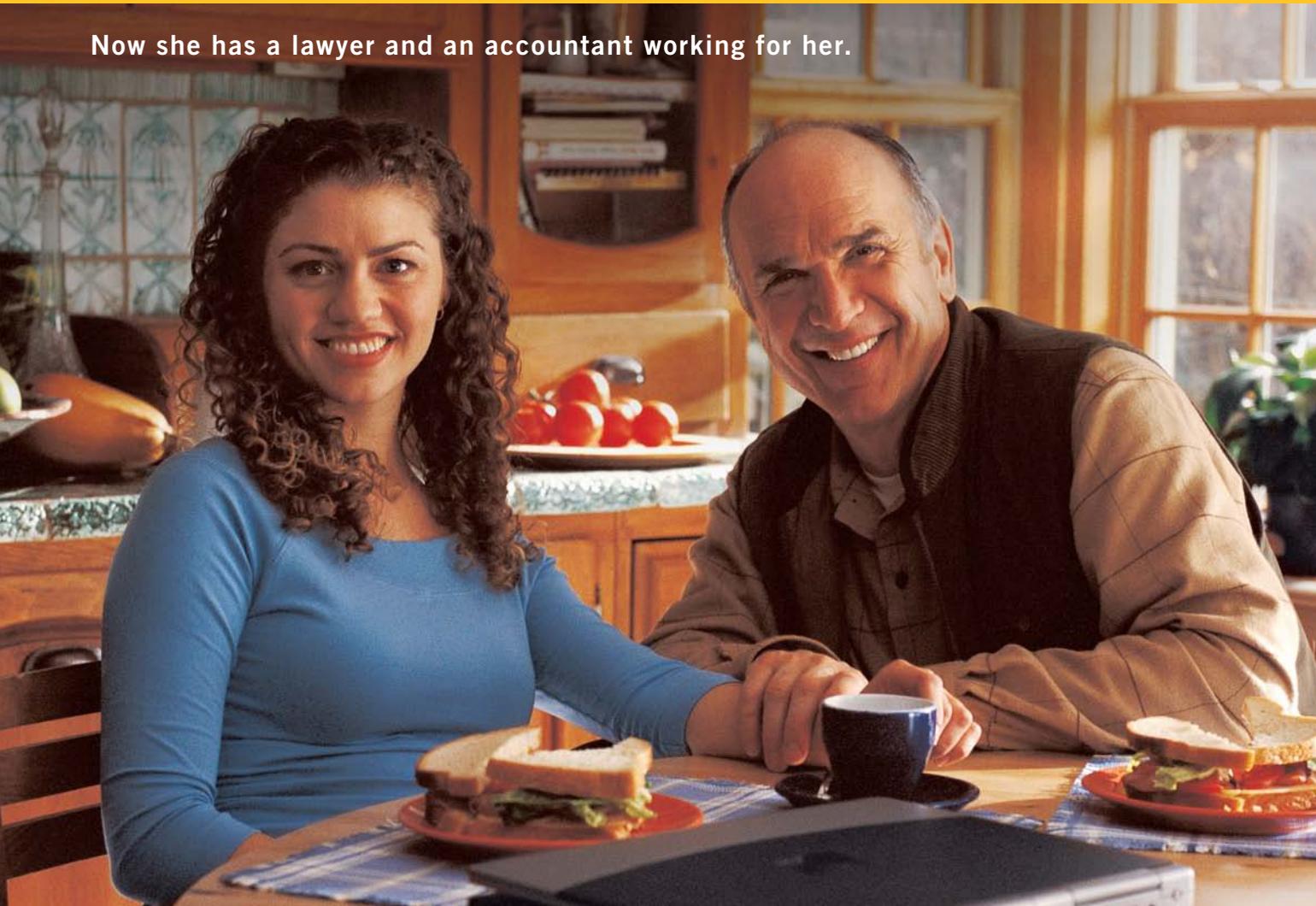


powerful terrorist organization and it's up to you to command more than 30 modern jets through intense dogfights over Europe, Asia, Africa and North America.

Because they can be so specialized and, well, hard, flight simulations generally appeal to a niche market, but *Over G* hopes to break out of that by offering two versions of play: a traditional simulation and an arcade mode. Fearless aviators can look forward to 80 single-player missions presented with near photorealistic visuals and Dolby 5.1 surround sound, plus multiplayer adversarial and co-op modes via Xbox Live.

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new releases

GO HOME WITH **THE FAMILY STONE**, **GRANDMA'S BOY** OR **THE PRODUCERS** | BY MARNI WEISZ

MAY 2



THE FAMILY STONE

Stars: Dermot Mulroney, Sarah Jessica Parker
Director: Thomas Bezucha
(Big Eden)

Story: Everett (Mulroney) belongs to a big, free-

spirited, liberal family. But he falls in love with Meredith, an uptight, repressed perfectionist. When he brings her home for Christmas, the family immediately decides she doesn't belong and lets her know.

DVD Extras: deleted scenes, actor and director commentaries, gag reel, cast Q&A

HOODWINKED

Voices: Glenn Close, Anne Hathaway
Directors: Cory Edwards, Todd Edwards, Tony Leech

Story: A postmodern redo of *Little Red Riding Hood* (somewhat like *Shrek*, but less pop culture-y), this animated feature endeavours to find out what really happened between Granny and the Wolf. The humour is (one hopes) generated by turning classic stereotypes on their heads — Granny is a slang-spouting extreme sports enthusiast, Red is a karate expert, etc. **DVD Extras:** deleted and extended scenes, music video, "How to Make an Animated Movie"



LAST HOLIDAY

Stars: Queen Latifah, LL Cool J
Director: Wayne Wang
(Maid in Manhattan)

Story: An update of the 1950 Alec Guinness

movie of the same name, Latifah plays — believe it or not — the Guinness character, who, diagnosed with a terminal illness, takes off to Europe to blow the bank account and have some fun. **DVD Extras:** deleted scenes, recipes from *Last Holiday*, "Packing Light," "23 Years in the Making," "Last Look"

MAY 9



BIG MOMMA'S HOUSE 2

Stars: Martin Lawrence, Nia Long
Director: John Whitesell
(Malibu's Most Wanted)

Story: Now married to his

love from the first movie (Long) and with a baby on the way, FBI Agent Malcolm Turner (Lawrence) has sworn off undercover work (drag and fat suits) in favour of a desk job. But when one of his mentors is killed, Turner lies to his wife, squeezes into Big Momma's skin and takes a nanny job with the suspect's dysfunctional family. **DVD Extras:** deleted and extended scenes, "Big Momma's Secrets," commentary track

THE NEW WORLD

Stars: Colin Farrell, Q'orianka Kilcher
Director: Terrence Malick
(Badlands)

Story: In keeping with his three previous films, director Malick uses awe-inspiring natural landscapes and a voiceover narration to tell a story — this time it's the historical saga of British adventurer John Smith (Farrell) and Pocahontas (14-year-old Kilcher), the native princess who saves his life.



RUMOR HAS IT...

Stars: Jennifer Aniston, Kevin Costner
Director: Rob Reiner
(Alex & Emma)

Story: On the eve of her sister's wedding,

reluctantly engaged Sarah Huttington (Aniston) discovers that her grandmother (Shirley MacLaine) was the inspiration for the Mrs. Robinson character in 1967's *The Graduate*. In that film, Mrs. R. was a middle-aged seductress who had an affair with a younger man (played by Dustin Hoffman) who then fell for her daughter. Thinking this may have something to do

with why she can't commit, Sarah feels compelled to get to know the real-life man (Costner) who slept with both her late mother and Granny.



GRANDMA'S BOY

Stars: Allen Covert, Doris Roberts
Director: Nicholaus Goossen (debut)

Story: A nerdy videogame developer (Covert) is

forced to move in with his overbearing grandma (Roberts) and her two zany friends (Shirley Knight and Shirley Jones) after he loses his apartment. **DVD Extras:** commentary tracks, "Lucy Gets Lucky," "Monkey Business," "April Fools," gag reel

MAY 16



THE PRODUCERS

Stars: Matthew Broderick, Nathan Lane
Director: Susan Stroman (debut)

Story: A theatre producer

(Lane) convinces his mild-mannered accountant (Broderick) to join him in a scheme guaranteed to make them rich. They'll develop a play so awful that it's guaranteed to close after opening night and they can run off with their investors' money. But there's no accounting for taste, and "Springtime for Hitler" is a smash hit. **DVD Extras:** deleted scenes, bonus musical number: "King of Broadway," outtakes, director commentary



THE RINGER

Stars: Johnny Knoxville, Brian Cox
Director: Barry W. Blaustein
(Beyond the Mat)

Story: It sounds like a bad idea — *Jackass* star

Johnny Knoxville plays a guy who pretends to be mentally challenged so that he can make money competing at the Special

video | and | dvd |

Olympics. But it turns out the Special Olympians (a mix of actors with disabilities and without) are portrayed with respect and heart, and Knoxville's character — who they quickly discover to be a fraud — is embraced by them in the hopes that he can knock off the competition's egotistical, heavily sponsored super-athlete, Jimmy. **DVD Extras:** deleted scenes, gag reel, director's commentary, Special Olympics PSA

MAY 23



CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN 2

Stars: Steve Martin, Bonnie Hunt
Director: Adam Shankman (*The Pacifier*)

Story: Martin and Hunt

once again play the Bakers — loving, nurturing parents of 12 offspring (which is ironic, since neither actor has a single

child). This time the Bakers take the aging brood up to the cottage on Lake Winnetka for one last summer together. But once there, they find that Tom's obnoxious childhood rival (Eugene Levy) owns most of the real estate around the lake, and dominates it with eight competitive children of his own. **DVD Extras:** director commentary, "Camp Chaos"

TRANSAMERICA

Stars: Felicity Huffman, Kevin Zegers
Director: Duncan Tucker (debut)

Story: A week before she is to undergo the operation that will finally complete her transformation from male to female, a transsexual waitress (Huffman) learns she fathered a son (Zegers) 17 years ago, and he's living on the streets. Now she has to ensure that he's okay before she can have the surgery, which involves the awkward pair (he has no idea she's his father) taking an eventful road trip. **DVD Extras:** director commentary, Dolly Parton music video

DVD SPOTLIGHT

KINGDOM OF HEAVEN DIRECTOR'S CUT (MAY 23, \$47)

King of the director's cut Ridley Scott does some revisionist editing on his latest, *Kingdom of Heaven*.

Having already tinkered with *Blade Runner*, *Gladiator* and *Alien*, Scott decided what *Kingdom of Heaven* needed was an extra 45 minutes of character development and back-story. In other words, if you thought the theatrical version (which came out on DVD last October) was somewhat disjointed and soulless, you should connect better with this new one.

The story follows young English blacksmith Balian (Orlando Bloom), who discovers that the noble knight Godfrey of Ibelin (Liam Neeson) is his father and that it's his destiny to make the trek to Jerusalem and protect the shaky peace that prevails between the second and third Crusades.

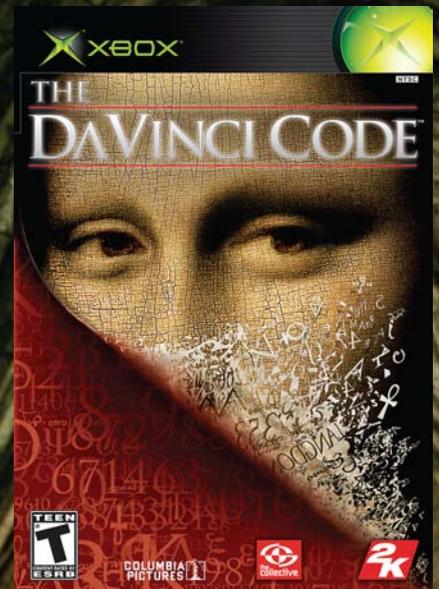
The new cut comes on four — yes, four — discs. Two of those are the movie and accompanying commentary tracks (everyone from Scott to the visual effects supervisor and assistant director have their say), the other two are jam-packed with documentaries and featurettes covering all stages of development and production.



Orlando Bloom

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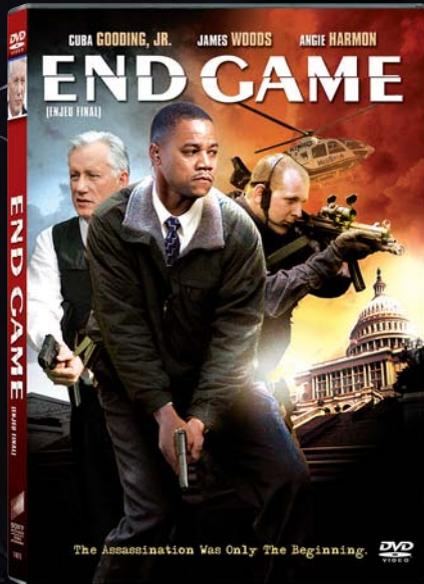
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star | gazing |

MAY 2006

HOROSCOPE | BY DAN LIEBMAN

Taurus

April 21 ☆ May 22

You're a creative and original thinker and will start a trend this month. Any doubts about a friend's loyalty are put to rest by the 13th. If your present financial goals are realistic, you should achieve them ahead of schedule. Set aside time to review a family situation.

Gemini

May 23 ☆ June 21

Play up your strengths and understand your weaknesses, and you'll see significant improvement in a relationship. It's an excellent month to pursue completely new interests and upgrade surroundings. You'll win an award by the 30th.

Cancer

June 22 ☆ July 22

You tend to be too delicate in your approach. If you want to land a job or are ready to express your feelings, avoid the subtle and emphasize the obvious. Watch out for someone stirring up trouble around the 20th. Eccentric types gravitate to you in late May.

Leo

July 23 ☆ August 22

The month opens with a series of mysterious events and ends with an exciting opportunity. Along the way you learn to admire someone you've known only from a distance. One caution: Watch out for an extravagant streak that surfaces around the 19th.

Virgo

August 23 ☆ September 22

Take a less scientific and more instinctive approach to work and you'll surpass even your own high expectations. Don't get caught up in popularity contests or petty disputes. Concentrate on meaningful relationships, and spend more time with upbeat people.

Libra

September 23 ☆ October 22

Nit-picky relatives and whiny friends stretch diplomatic Libra's patience to the limit. It's high time to tell someone off.

Your mood will improve by the 20th. May is a good month to research travel destinations, learn a new craft and mix business with pleasure.

Scorpio

October 23 ☆ November 21

A young relative has a surprisingly positive influence on your life. Toward the middle of the month, someone may try to steal one of your ideas. Be on high alert. Friends wear out their welcome around the 22nd. You hear some good financial news toward the 30th.

Sagittarius

November 22 ☆ December 22

There's a greater load on your shoulders during the first half of the month, but help arrives by the 17th. A new sport or exercise program leads to an extended period of greater energy. The last week is an excellent time for long-term financial planning.

Capricorn

December 23 ☆ January 20

It's easy to find fault with a new friend, but first impressions can be very misleading now. Relatives are less stubborn over a financial matter. A different strategy gives you the edge in a competitive situation. News you hear around the 27th can shock even you.

Aquarius

January 21 ☆ February 19

Stay informed of developments happening close to home. Information you pick up this month will prove useful in June or July. Someone whose views you once challenged now stands up for yours. The end of the month will be an unusually productive time for you.

Pisces

February 20 ☆ March 20

Avoid being overly modest and be sure to promote your strengths. Make the first move in a personal or professional relationship. People are interested in your ideas, even the off-the-wall ones. The last two weekends see you hosting parties. Expect a crasher or two.

Aries

March 21 ☆ April 20

You're feeling comfortable about a family-related situation. Friends, on the other hand, are more fickle than the weather. Don't ignore property matters, especially in the latter part of the month. Expect to attract admirers around the new moon of the 27th.

Pamela Anderson



Jann Arden



The Crazy Canucks



Brendan Fraser

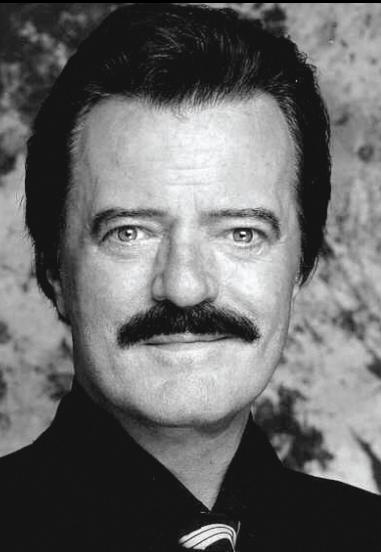


CANADA'S WALK OF FAME

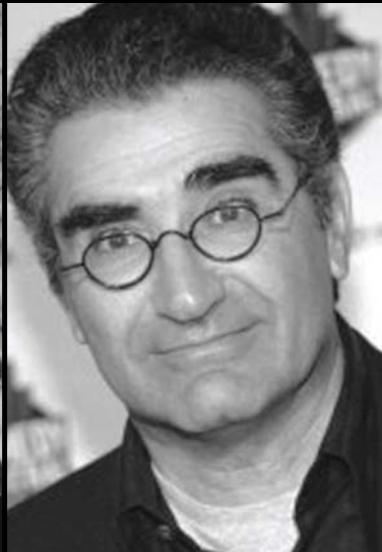
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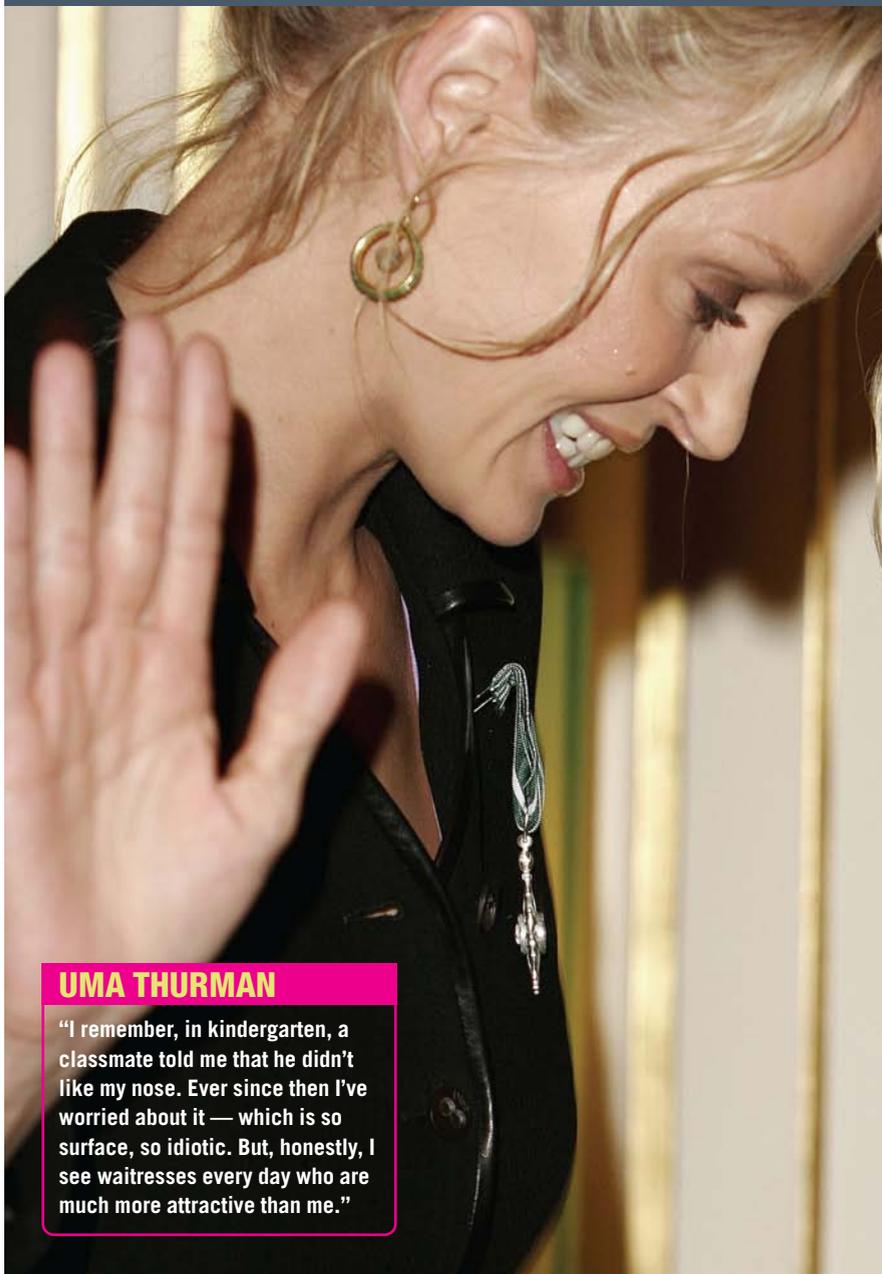


10

BEAUTIFUL STARS

TELL YOU WHY THEY'RE NOT PERFECT

BY SUSAN GRANGER



UMA THURMAN

"I remember, in kindergarten, a classmate told me that he didn't like my nose. Ever since then I've worried about it — which is so surface, so idiotic. But, honestly, I see waitresses every day who are much more attractive than me."

CAMERON DIAZ "My nose has been broken three times and I have a serious pimple problem."

CATHERINE ZETA-JONES "I have a piggy nose and puffy eyes."

JULIA ROBERTS "From the time I was in high school, I've felt my lips were too big and awkward. And my grin is just plain goofy. It looks like I have a hanger in my mouth."

MEG RYAN "I've always thought I was kind of weird looking. I've wanted a smaller nose."

CELINE DION "Blemishes have always plagued me. I have lots of skin problems.... People have suggested that I change my chin with plastic surgery, but I am a singer and it might change the way I sound. And when I see my family, there's that chin, and it makes me proud. I'd hate to change that."

KIRSTEN DUNST "My nose can look too button-y and my cheekbones are not chiseled enough. My dentist suggested burning my gums to make my teeth look bigger and reshaping my prominent canines."

MINNIE DRIVER "My jaw. I would just make my jaw narrower."

MICHELLE PFEIFFER "I look like a duck. It's the way my mouth curls up. I should have played Howard the Duck."

SELMA BLAIR "People always think I'm blue because of the way my face is. My eyes and mouth turn down, and people translate that into, 'Wow, Selma's really sad.'"

HOODWINKED

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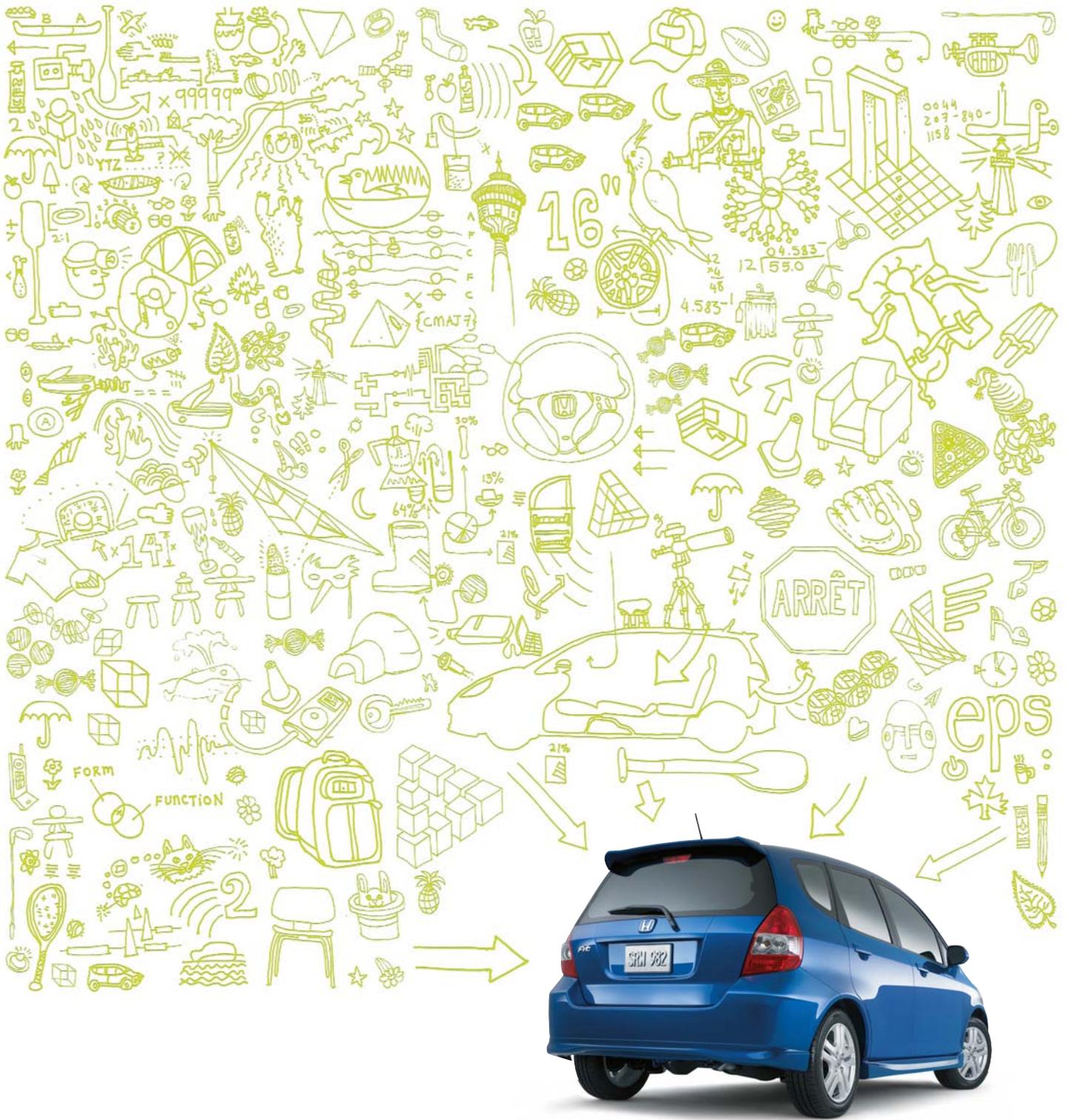
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