

canada's #1  in canada's #1 theatres

Fa us

november 2004 | volume 5
| number 11

**HOLIDAY
GIFT
IDEAS**

THE LATEST
**VIDEO
& DVD**
PAGE 42

**COLIN
FARRELL** on
Alexander

Engineering
**THE POLAR
EXPRESS**

 **BRIDGET'S
BACK!
GET THE
SCOOP FROM**
**Renée
Zellweger**

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PLUS DONALD TRUMP, ROBIN WILLIAMS AND OTHER STARS DISCUSS THE SUPERNATURAL

FROM THE DIRECTOR OF "RUSH HOUR" AND "RED DRAGON"

**PIERCE
BROSNAN**
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PRODUCED BY BEAU FLYNN TRIPP VINSON JAY STERN STORY BY PAUL ZBYSZEVSKI SCREENPLAY BY PAUL ZBYSZEVSKI AND CRAIG ROSENBERG SOUNDTRACK AVAILABLE ON
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AND

DUSTIN
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SCREENPLAY BY HARVEY WEINSTEIN MICHELLE SY PRODUCED BY BARRY BINKOW NEAL ISRAEL BASED UPON "THE MAN WHO WAS PETER PAN" BY JILL ANKNEVELL SCREENPLAY BY DAVID WAGGE PRODUCED BY RICHARD H. GLAUSTEIN NELLIE BELFLOWER DIRECTED BY MARC FORSTER



IN THEATRES THIS NOVEMBER

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Women around the world rejoiced when RENÉE ZELLWEGER committed to once again pile on the pounds and play lovable, loose-lipped Londoner Bridget Jones in the sequel *Bridget Jones: The Edge of Reason*. Here Zellweger discusses her take on the newly attached Bridget

BY BOB STRAUSS

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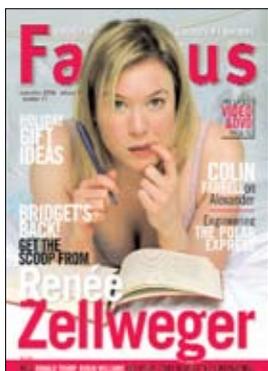
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WE LIKE HER, JUST AS SHE IS

If I say the one movie people keep telling me they can't wait to see this holiday season is *Bridget Jones: The Edge of Reason* is it obvious that I talk to a disproportionately large number of single women in their early 30s?

Probably. And in *Bridget*, these women have found a role model — a verbally incontinent, average-sized, screw-up of a role model.

Thank God. It was about time.



It always rang false for me when the *Charlie's Angels* cast would claim they were role models because they were playing "strong women." Yeah, like we all need to know how to chase down a bad guy while wearing stilettos. And Lara Croft? Come on. While women may feel some level of empowerment watching Angelina Jolie bust heads while she's busting out of her tank top, they're more likely to leave the theatre all mopey, thinking, "Gee...I wish I had her ass."

Bridget Jones, on the other hand, is an average gal, in average shape, with an above-average mind, and an above-average sense of humour who continually manages to overcome her mistakes and, ultimately, do the right thing. She's a role model for reality, not a role model for the .006 percent of women who want to be Navy SEALs.

By association, **Renée Zellweger** — the svelte American who has twice transformed herself into the solid Brit — is also something of a role model. Charlize Theron aside, there aren't many female actors willing to part ways with their petite figures for the sake of art — even if it is only for a few months at a time. In "Bridg Over Troubled Water," page 32, Zellweger talks about reuniting with the character that earned her her first Oscar nomination. Plus, on page 36 we take a look at Ms. Zellweger's off-camera style. We have to admit, while she may be a role model for the average gal, she sure has expensive taste in purses.

While we're talking about transformations, have you seen **Colin Farrell's** hair in *Alexander*? Looks like he borrowed it from Zellweger. But the golden mane is historically accurate. Alexander the Great's fair hair and clean-shaven face were just a couple of the traits that separated the fourth-century BC conqueror from most of the men around him. In "Sexy Beast," page 26, Farrell describes what it was like to play one of history's most ruthless, yet successful, figures.

And if transformations are the topic, it would be hard to match the one **Tom Hanks** underwent for *The Polar Express* — from flesh and blood to digital and pixilated. Find out how it was done in "An Animated Performance," page 22.

—MARNI WEISZ



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Famous™ magazine is published 12 times a year by 1371327 Ontario Ltd. Subscriptions are \$32.10 (\$30 + GST) a year in Canada, \$45 a year in the U.S. and \$55 a year overseas. Single copies are \$3. Back issues are \$6.

All subscription inquiries, back issue requests and letters to the editor should be directed to *Famous* magazine at 102 Atlantic Ave., Ste. 100, Toronto, Ontario, M6K 1X9; or 416.539.8800; or editor@fpmedia.ca

Publications Mail Agreement No. 40708019

Return undeliverable Canadian addresses to:

Famous magazine, 102 Atlantic Ave., Suite 100, Toronto, Ont., M6K 1X9

500,000 copies of *Famous* magazine are distributed through Famous Players and Alliance Atlantis cinemas, and other outlets. *Famous* magazine is not responsible for the return of unsolicited manuscripts, artwork or other materials.

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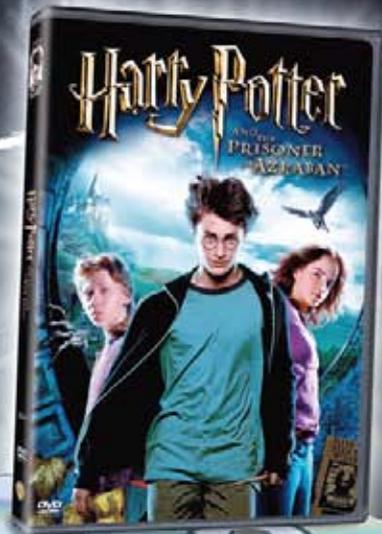
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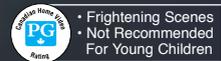


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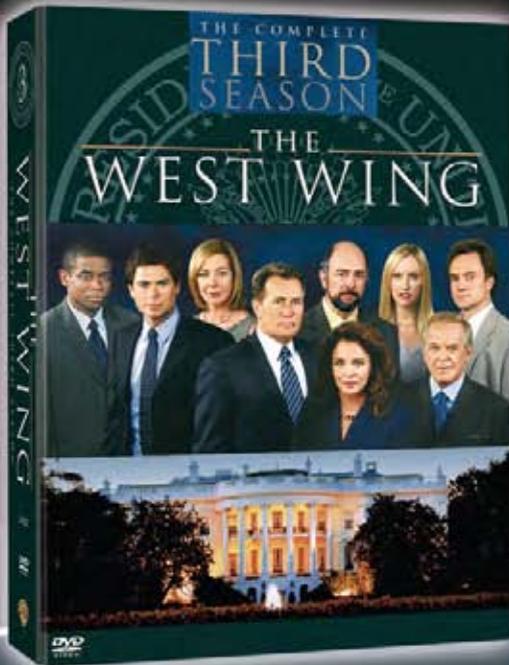


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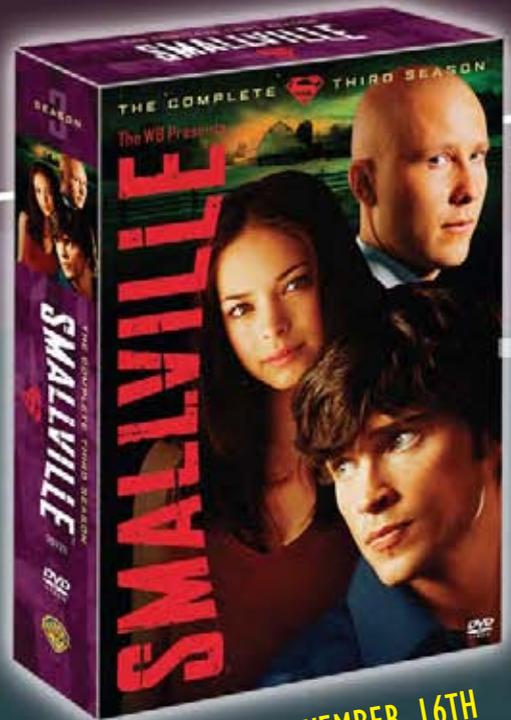
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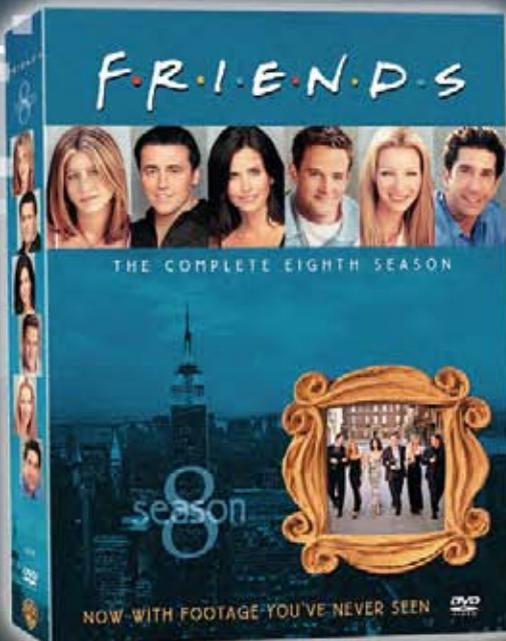
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CAUGHT ON FILM

THE STARS WORK, PLAY AND PROMOTE THEIR MOVIES



PHOTO BY TONY BRADY/PHOTOGRAPHER SHOWCASE



PHOTO BY IPHOTO

▲ You go Keanu Reeves, you crazy, ▲ eccentric mother. You've got all the ▲ money you could possibly need thanks to that wacky *Matrix* thing, so you *should* feel free to go shaggy, wear a Fellini hat and walk down the streets of Beverly Hills holding a glass of wine.

◀◀ No, you can't sign the camera Gwyneth...put that marker away and pull up your top. Gwyneth Paltrow juggles autograph-signing, a dangerous dress and a photographer at the London, England, after-party for *Sky Captain and the World of Tomorrow*.

▼ Wait a minute, they didn't have digicams in the 1880s. Salma
 ▼ Hayek was on a break from shooting the comic Western *Bandidas*
 ▼ in Mexico City when she took a few snapshots of her own. Hayek
 and Penélope Cruz play a couple of *muy caliente* bank robbers, this
 particular scene was being shot at Mexico City's historic post office.



PHOTO BY PHOTOGRAPHER SHOWCASE



PHOTO BY PAUL ADAO/PHOTO

▲ Hey little doggie, there's something you need to know. Your mommy's
 ▲ about to have a real baby, and that means you won't be getting as
 ▲ much attention for the next 18 years. Don't look so sad. The upside is
 there will be someone else to blame for all those unpleasant odors. A very
 pregnant Liv Tyler takes her King Charles spaniel for a walk through the
 streets of New York City.



PHOTO BY GROSBY GROUP INTERNATIONAL

<<<< This may look like an intrusive paparazzi shot of poor Billy Bob Thornton
 leaving the hospital with his new-born daughter Bella, but, truth is, it was
 arranged in advance with the full approval of Thornton and his girlfriend
 Connie Angland. Perhaps it was an effort to have some control over the
 situation.

>>>> Is that the American flag draped over Val Kilmer's back during the
 Hollywood, California, stage production of *The Ten Commandments*?! The
 largely panned musical (yes, musical) stars Kilmer as Moses and was
 produced by fashion designer Max Azria, so maybe it's an homage to
 Tommy Hilfinger or something.

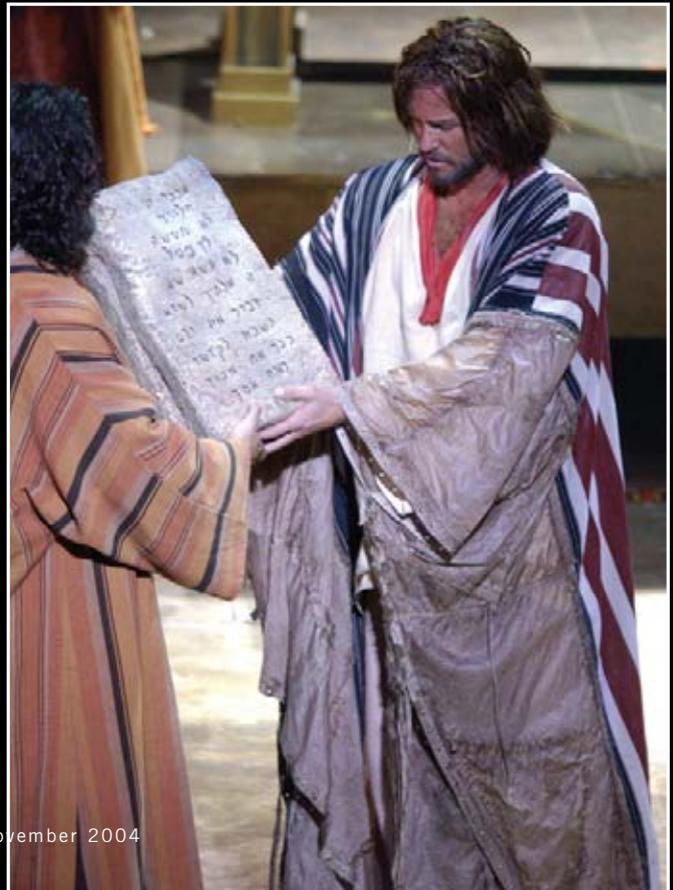


PHOTO BY MICHAEL CAULFIELD/WIREIMAGE

Lucky gal

Liane Balaban is on her way to L.A. By the time you read this, the 24-year-old, Toronto-born Natalie Portman look-alike should already be settled into a temporary home there while she searches for something more permanent.

Perhaps it was filming the upcoming con-artist caper *Seven Times Lucky* in Winnipeg's minus-40-degree temperatures last February that convinced her to make the jump. "The challenge for me was making my mouth move, it was so frozen," recalls the waifish actor, now comfortably seated in a Toronto hotel room on a warm September afternoon during the Toronto International Film Festival.

Or maybe it's the disappointment she feels when she makes a decent Canadian movie like *Seven Times Lucky* or her

1999 breakthrough *New Waterford Girl*, and then very few people get to see it. "It just makes you so frustrated! I mean, *New Waterford Girl* was a great movie, for example, and it did so well in Canada but, you know what, it could have done even better, and it didn't even come out in the States," she says. "It's a travesty."

It certainly wasn't her adopted hometown of Montreal that made her pine for L.A. She's been living there with her boyfriend and studying political science at Concordia for the past three years, and she adores it. "The people are so interesting and creative, everyone makes art, it's a wonderful atmosphere," she says. "It's really inspiring."

Most likely, the reason that Liane Balaban is now moving to L.A. is that she has finally decided that — yes — she really does want to be an actor.

It was about five years ago that Balaban first met with the press. Ironically, until that point she assumed she would be on the other end of the microphone or notepad. She was studying journalism at Ryerson University in Toronto when the producer of *New Waterford Girl* — a quaint story about a 15-year-old who pretends to be pregnant to escape a small Nova Scotia town — spotted the then-18-year-old with no acting experience and asked her to audition.

When Balaban did interviews to support the movie she repeatedly told reporters she wasn't even sure she wanted to be an actor.

So what's changed?

"I kept working, kept making films, meeting interesting people, learning more about the craft, and I started taking acting classes for the first time, which got me so enthused about the craft. I was relying on my gut up until I started taking that class — which was great, I still use my gut, it's the best place to act from, like your crotch and your heart. But I didn't know what to do when something wasn't working," she explains. "As soon as I started taking acting classes I said, 'Gosh, I love acting.'"

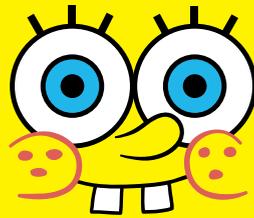
Balaban used those skills to play the manipulative con artist at the centre of *Seven Times Lucky*, a well-crafted crime pic due out next spring, which co-stars Kevin Pollack (*The Usual Suspects*) and has audiences wondering who's conning who right until the final frame. But, perhaps more importantly, she used those new skills on a recent trip to L.A. where she auditioned for the TV networks during pilot season. Although visa problems kept her from snagging any roles, that was when Balaban says she realized, "I must live in L.A. if I'm going to seriously pursue acting."

"It's hard to go at it all out in Canada because we make 30 movies a year...how many of them have a role that's appropriate for me," she asks rhetorically. "How many auditions do I do a year for Canadian projects? Just a handful. So going at it full steam ahead is living in Los Angeles."

—MARNI WEISZ



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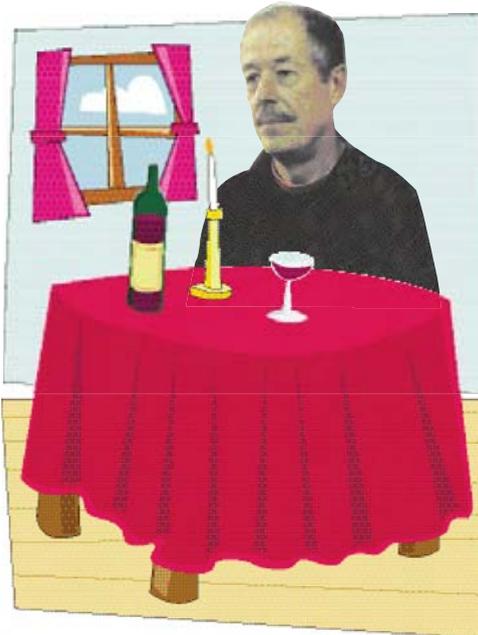
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This month, Famous Players' website, www.famousplayers.com, is hosting an online auction that will benefit the Cinémathèque québécoise. One of the most intriguing items up for grabs is dinner for two at Montreal's Toqué restaurant with Denys Arcand, who helmed *The Decline of the American Empire*, *Jesus of Montreal* and *The Barbarian Invasions*, and his wife Denise Robert, producer of such films as *Mambo Italiano* and *Le Confessionnal*.



Pop on to www.famousplayers.com to check out dozens of items, including a copy of Atom Egoyan's *Exotica* book signed by the director himself, assorted memorabilia autographed by Québécois superstars Roy Dupuis and Karine Vanasse, and the opportunity to be an extra in *Bon Cop/Bad Cop*, the next movie from *Twist* executive producer Kevin Tierney.

Founded in 1963, the Cinémathèque québécoise is a non-profit organization that preserves and promotes Canadian and international film and television via public screenings, exhibitions and educational programs. Funds raised by the auction will ensure the organization's continued existence and help it deal with the technological challenges of preserving these materials.

Bidding opens November 2nd and will close November 30th. —MW

SpongeBob Speaks

Ever wonder what it's like to spend your life behind a microphone making up funny voices for cartoons? It may sound like child's play, but for veteran voice actor Tom Kenny, who provides the pipes for SpongeBob SquarePants in the hugely

popular animated series and now big-screen flick *The SpongeBob SquarePants Movie*, it's requires just as much craft and skill as acting in front of a camera.

"I know it sounds completely ridiculous, but I approach these [animated] characters as if they really exist, no matter how outlandish or surreal they are," says the 42-year-old Kenny over his cell-phone while negotiating an L.A. traffic jam. "The guys I admire in the voiceover realm did that, guys like Mel Blanc [Bugs Bunny], Daws Butler [Yogi Bear] and Dan Castellaneta [Homer Simpson]. You can tell when you watch *The Simpsons* that Dan Castellaneta has done a lot of

thinking about who Homer is, Homer is real to Dan Castellaneta."

So what was the thinking behind SpongeBob? How did Kenny come up with his weird, almost smarmy voice?

"With SpongeBob the most important thing was to find a childlike voice that wasn't completely grown-up," he explains. "Certain aspects of his life are adult in the sense he goes to a job everyday and lives in his own house, but he's not fully an adult, he's also half a child.

"When you start thinking about the comedic archetypes that have that man-child thing happening, you go right to Jerry Lewis, Stan Laurel from Laurel and Hardy, and maybe Curly from The Three Stooges; they were all grown-up men who often acted like children.

"So, more than tapping into other cartoon characters for SpongeBob, it was definitely the comedic trinity — Curly, Stan Laurel and Jerry Lewis."

—IR



Tom Kenny

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FINDING NEVERLAND

WHO'S IN IT? Johnny Depp, Kate Winslet
WHO DIRECTED? Marc Forster
(*Monster's Ball*)

WHAT'S IT ABOUT? Scottish author J.M. Barrie (Depp) befriends a widow (Winslet) and her four sons who inspire him to write the classic children's play *Peter Pan*.

• HITS THEATRES NOVEMBER 12

NOVEMBER 5

THE INCREDIBLES

VOICES: Craig T. Nelson, Holly Hunter
WHO DIRECTED? Brad Bird (*The Iron Giant*)
WHAT'S IT ABOUT? After being safely tucked away in the superhero witness protection program, the superhero family The Incredibles steps out into the open to fight their arch-enemy, Syndrome.

BIRTH

WHO'S IN IT? Nicole Kidman, Cameron Bright
WHO DIRECTED? Jonathan Glazer
(*Sexy Beast*)

WHAT'S IT ABOUT? Anna (Kidman) is forced to question her beliefs about life and death when a 10-year-old boy (Cameron Bright) tells her that he's actually the reincarnated soul of her dead husband. This little film could grab big headlines if the final cut does indeed include scenes of Kidman and Bright kissing and bathing together.

UNDERTOW

WHO'S IN IT? Dermot Mulroney, Josh Lucas
WHO DIRECTED? David Gordon Green
(*All the Real Girls*)
WHAT'S IT ABOUT? John Munn (Mulroney)

and his two sons live quietly in the backwoods of Georgia. But their peaceful existence comes to a violent end when John's nasty brother, Deel (Lucas), gets out of prison and comes looking for a family heirloom.

NOVEMBER 10

THE POLAR EXPRESS

VOICES: Tom Hanks, Michael Jeter
WHO DIRECTED? Robert Zemeckis
(*Cast Away*)
WHAT'S IT ABOUT? Zemeckis was labeled a visionary for his deft use of special effects in *Who Framed Roger Rabbit* and *Forrest*

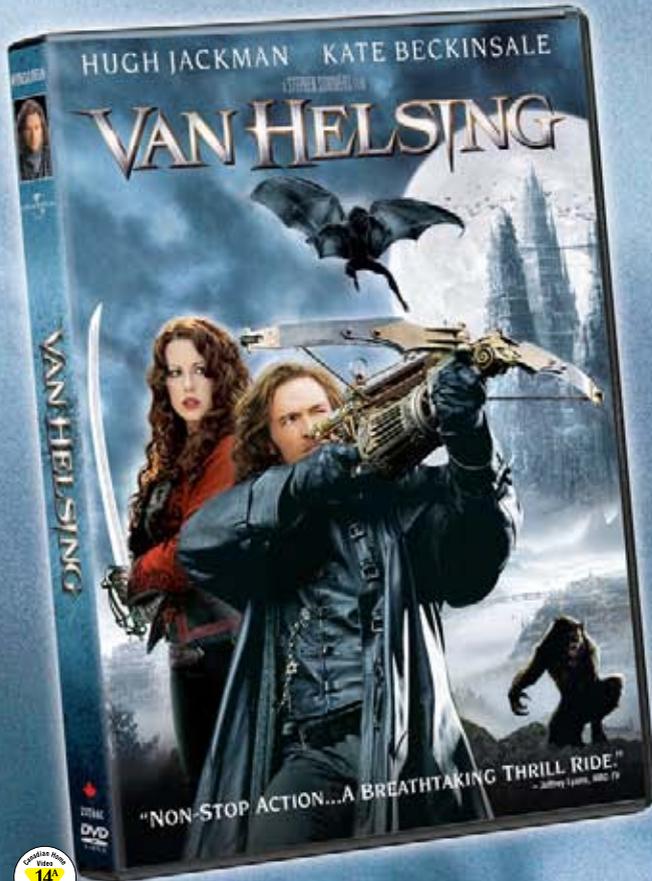
AFTER THE SUNSET

WHO'S IN IT? Pierce Brosnan, Woody Harrelson
WHO DIRECTED? Brett Ratner (*Rush Hour*)
WHAT'S IT ABOUT? A smooth, suave professional criminal (Brosnan) carries out one last job and then retires to an island paradise with his lovely lady (Salma Hayek). Problem is, the FBI agent (Harrelson) who's made a career of keeping tabs on the crook has a hard time believing he's given up his thieving ways.

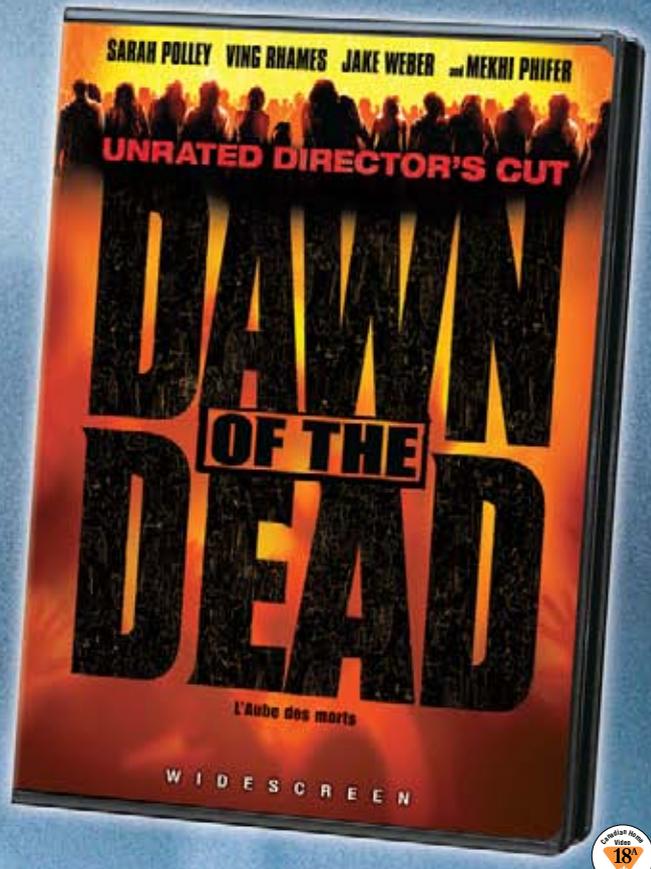
• HITS THEATRES NOVEMBER 12



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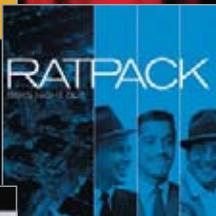
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k-os
Joyful Rebellion



RAT PACK
Boys Night Out



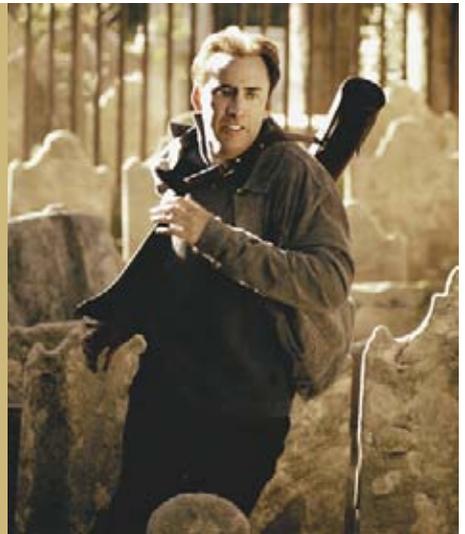
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NATIONAL TREASURE

WHO'S IN IT? Nicolas Cage, Diane Kruger
WHO DIRECTED? Jon Turteltaub (*The Kid*)
WHAT'S IT ABOUT? Cage plays a treasure hunter who discovers the map to a legendary war chest is secretly scrawled on the back of the Declaration of Independence. Now all he has to do is steal that little old piece of parchment.

• **HITS THEATRES NOVEMBER 19**



▶▶ *Gump*. Will he earn kudos once more with this state-of-the-art, special-effects extravaganza focusing on a train full of kids heading to the North Pole to meet Santa? **See story, page 22.**

SEED OF CHUCKY

WHO'S IN IT? Jennifer Tilly, Brad Dourif
WHO DIRECTED? Don Mancini (debut)
WHAT'S IT ABOUT? Killer dolls Chucky (Dourif) and Tiffany (Tilly) are brought back to life by their son Glen so they can oversee the Hollywood movie version of their lives — Tilly pulls double duty, voicing Tiffany and playing herself in the Hollywood movie.

NOVEMBER 19

THE SPONGEBOB SQUAREPANTS MOVIE

VOICES: Tom Kenny, Bill Fagerbakke
WHO DIRECTED? Sherm Cohen and Stephen Hillenburg (debuts)
WHAT'S IT ABOUT? He's yellow, yappy and on the lookout for King Neptune's missing crown. SpongeBob SquarePants and his TV pals hit the big screen in their feature-film debut. **See interview with Tom Kenny, page 14.**

BRIDGET JONES: THE EDGE OF REASON

WHO'S IN IT? Renée Zellweger, Colin Firth
WHO DIRECTED? Beeban Kidron (*Swept From the Sea*)
WHAT'S IT ABOUT? This long-awaited

sequel to *Bridget Jones's Diary* finds Bridget (Zellweger) a tad confused 'cause the emotional storm she felt for Mark Darcy (Firth) has been downgraded to a light shower, and she's starting to think naughty thoughts about that cad Daniel Clever (Hugh Grant) again. **See Renée Zellweger interview, page 32, and a piece about her off-screen style, page 36.**

NOVEMBER 24

ALEXANDER

WHO'S IN IT? Colin Farrell, Angelina Jolie
WHO DIRECTED? Oliver Stone (*Any Given Sunday*)
WHAT'S IT ABOUT? Farrell checks in as ancient-world hottie Alexander the Great, who by the age of 25 had conquered 90 percent of the known world. Director Stone's vision includes grand battle scenes, but he also narrows in on Alex's mommy dearest (Jolie), and brushes by his homoerotic friendship with aide Hephaestion (Jared Leto). **See Colin Farrell interview, page 26.**

CHRISTMAS WITH THE KRANKS

WHO'S IN IT? Tim Allen, Jamie Lee Curtis
WHO DIRECTED? Joe Roth (*America's Sweethearts*)
WHAT'S IT ABOUT? Luther and Nora Krank (Allen and Curtis) were dreaming of a Christmas vacation in the sun until their daughter announced she's coming home for Xmas, leaving them just 12 hours to prepare for the holiday.

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GAMES OF THE MONTH

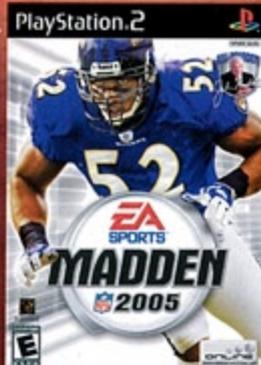
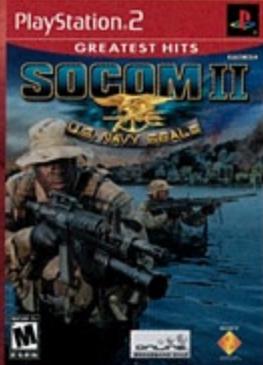
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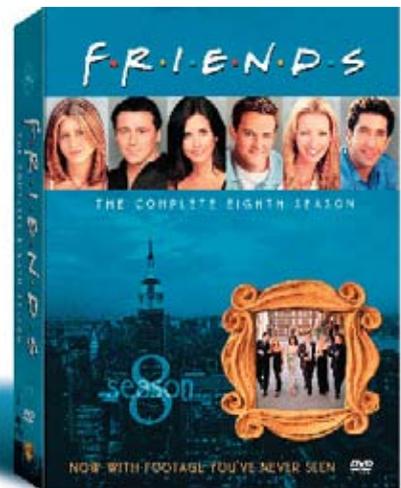
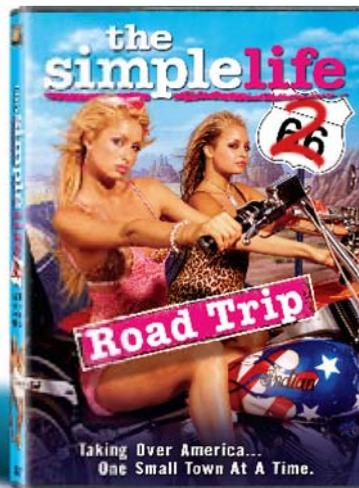
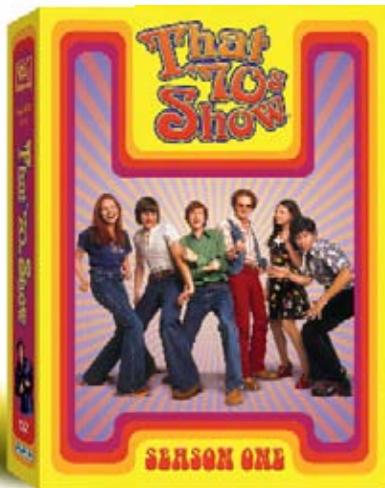
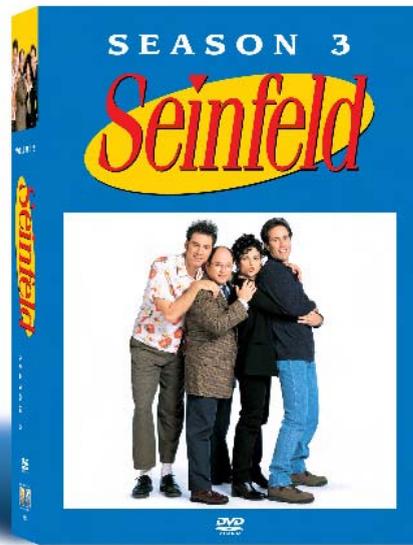
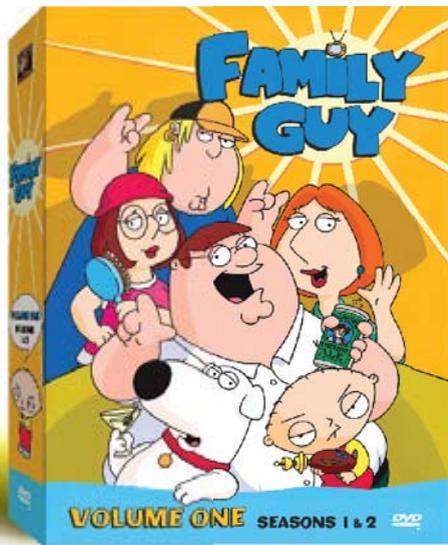
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an animated PERFORMANCE

| BY MARNI WEISZ

The debate over whether actors who voice animated characters should be eligible for Oscar nominations — like Eddie Murphy for *Shrek's* Donkey or Andy Serkis for *The Lord of the Rings's* Gollum — will intensify this month with the release of Tom Hanks' Christmas tale *The Polar Express*.

Now, don't get ahead of us here. This isn't one of those puff pieces that blindly declares Hanks' performance is worthy of Oscar buzz. This article has more to do with how his character, er, characters — he plays five of them, were created, and the blurring line between live-action and animation.

"We're going to just submit it [for Oscar consideration] and there are going to be a lot of interesting discussions around tables," says Steve Starkey, one of the film's producers. Starkey, whose credits include *Who Framed Roger Rabbit*, *Forrest Gump*, *Return of the Jedi* and *The Empire Strikes Back*, brought 20



The conductor and the little boy are just two of the characters "played" by Hanks



minutes of the film, plus a whack of behind-the-scenes footage, to the Toronto International Film Festival. "We sort of like the fact that we're going to make [the Academy] squeamish."

Based on the book of the same name, *The Polar Express* tells the story of a little boy whose doubts about Santa are quashed after a magical train trip to the North Pole. And when the film opens this month, audiences will see that a handful of its animated characters bear a striking physical resemblance to Hanks — the boy's father, the conductor, a hobo and Santa Claus.

What audiences won't see is Hanks himself — perhaps the most bankable and powerful star in Hollywood — squeezed into a Lycra motion-capture suit covered in little white ping-pong balls as he acts out these characters' scenes on a cavernous, colourless soundstage. Hanks also "plays" the little boy, although the boy doesn't particularly look like Hanks, and is his only character who is voiced by a different actor, 11-year-old Josh Hutcherson.

On that soundstage, replica sets are sparsely constructed out of wire so that the actors know where to position themselves but so there's little to get between the cameras and the sensors in those balls.

In addition to the Lycra suit, Hanks' face is plastered with 151 more balls, these ones even smaller, making it look like he just came from a session with a particularly aggressive acupuncturist. It's these delicate sensors on Hanks' face, and the characters' ensuing resemblance to him, that makes the Oscar question even more interesting than for Serkis. As you'll recall, Gollum's face looked more like a withered Elijah Wood than it did like the British actor who has become synonymous with the animated creature.

"The problem, of course, is that the performance isn't done by one person," concedes Starkey. In other words, giving Hanks an Oscar nomination would negate the contributions the animators made in bringing his characters to life.

But, despite the fact that Hanks was not solely responsible for his characters, there are many ways in which his performance was more challenging than conventional acting.

"He didn't like that he couldn't wear wardrobe. He uses that as a vehicle to express himself," explains Starkey. "So because he played five different characters he wore different shoes for each character." The prop department also made

Hanks a plush pocket watch that he could tape to his chest and refer to while he was playing the conductor.

The result was that the actor — who has said he didn't particularly enjoy the restrictions of doing an all-voice part for the *Toy Story* movies — felt more involved in these characters, or as Starkey puts it, "He said 'I get to act.'"

Starkey doesn't seem to be concerned that these super-advanced cartoons may someday replace actors. He says he has seen tests of photo-real animation, and while it is almost impossible to tell the computer-generated actors from flesh ones, over the course of a movie "it wouldn't be the same."

"There's no animator that can create a human performance," Starkey insists.

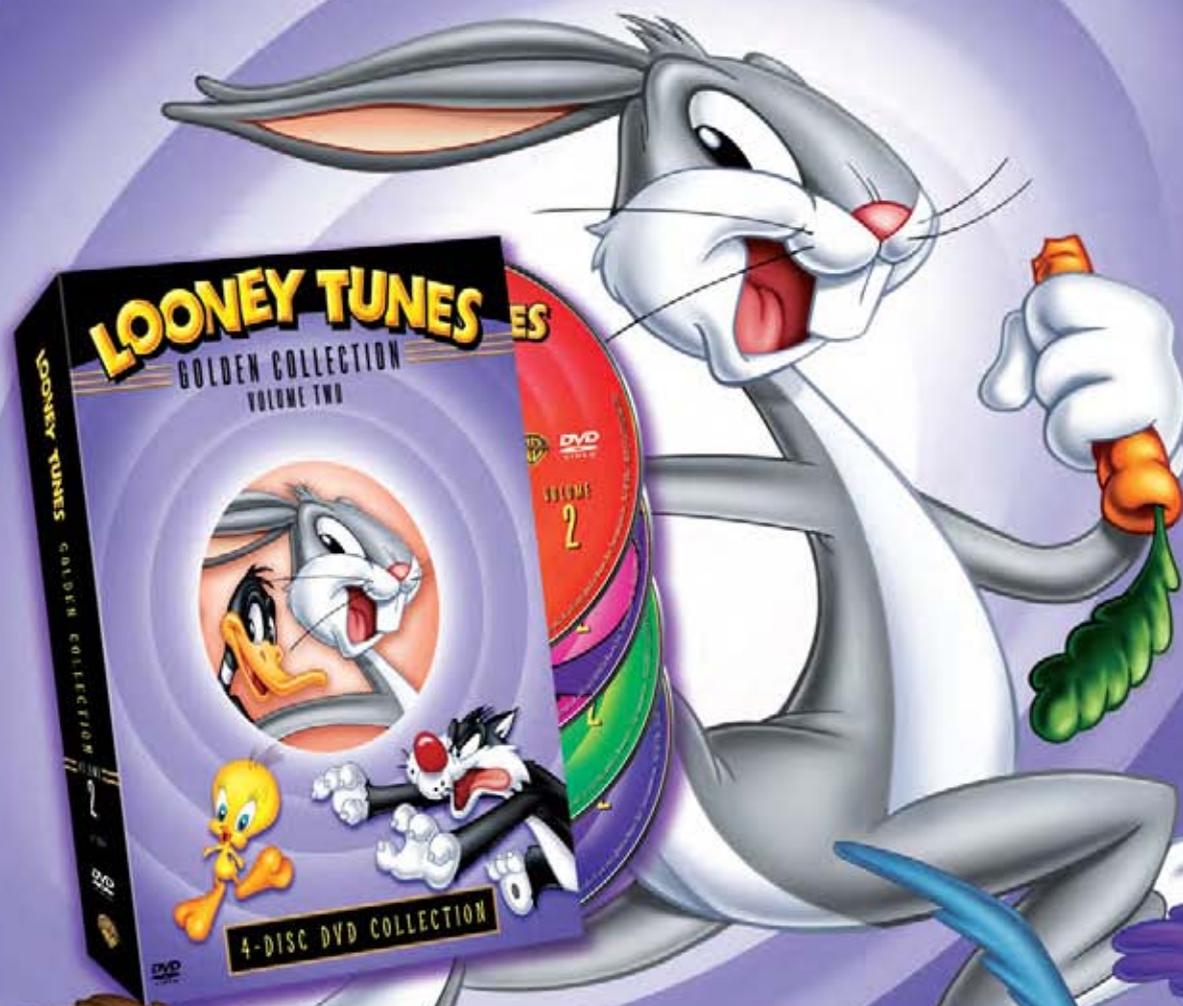
But a drastic increase of these films sure might change our idea of what makes a star. Imagine a Hollywood where Andy Serkis is a \$20-million man and Brad Pitt merely a background player.

Hanks, on the other hand, would clearly be a star in either world. **E**

If you live in a city with a Famous Players IMAX screen you can catch *The Polar Express: A 3D IMAX Experience* (funny goggles and all) which will be released simultaneously with the traditional format. This will be the first time that a 2D Hollywood film has been transformed into 3D for IMAX.

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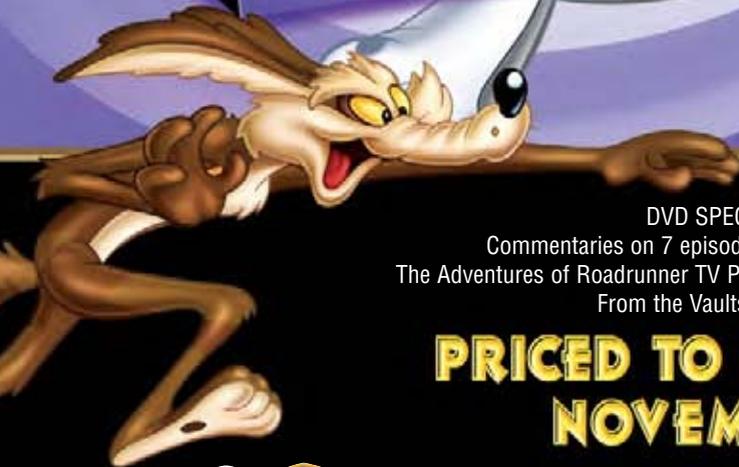
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Sexy beast

Notorious party animal **COLIN FARRELL** talks about playing a leader in a time when kings were barbaric and sexual freedom ruled | **BY EARL DITTMAN**



If you're hoping for a definitive explanation of how Colin Farrell managed to rise to the top of the Hollywood heap, don't expect one from him. He doesn't have the faintest idea.

"It's been such a crazy time for me, sometimes I don't even know if I like myself," jokes the lean, bushy-browed star of *Alexander*, Oliver Stone's \$150-million (U.S.) bio-pic of Alexander the Great. Farrell plops himself down on a massive sofa in his posh Beverly Hills hotel suite and continues, "I don't know why people are so excited about me, because I'm doing the same job I've been doing for eight years — I'm just doing it for more money and with bigger names. I mean, when I'm not working I still live back at home with my folks in Ireland. What kind of sex symbol lives with his mom and dad?"

Decked out in worn blue jeans, beat-up black hiking boots and a tight black T-shirt and puffing on one of the dozens of Camel Lights he'll inhale during our chat, it quickly becomes apparent why the star of *Phone Booth* and *S.W.A.T.* has become such a media darling. A self-professed "publicist's nightmare," he's something of a rarity in Tinsel Town — he's not afraid to discuss any aspect of his career or private life, particularly his very active libido.

"I don't know why other actors get so freaked out about discussing sex," says Farrell, who was married once — to *Quills* star Amelia Warner for 120 days. "I did an interview where I said that I was a fan of casual sex, and everyone made such a big deal out of it. I was like, 'Imagine, a 28-year-old single man being a big fan of casual sex. Shame on me. The shock and the horror!' I mean, let's be honest, give me someone decent to talk to, who's got a bit of a form and good skin, and I'm a happy man. What guy wouldn't be? And if women want to treat me like a sex symbol, bring it on. I'm easy to find."

This month he'll be even easier to find — on every talk show in town promoting *Alexander*, no doubt.

Unlike other big-screen bios — such as *A Beautiful Mind*, for instance — that choose to omit real-life figures' homosexual experiences, Stone's film will include the Macedonian leader's bisexuality, with Jared Leto playing Alexander's confidant and lover Hephaestion. "It was just the way that society was, it was just sexuality. It was just making love to men and women. Portraying it certainly didn't bother me. You're playing a character, and if that character was in love with men, too, why would I care about kissing another bloke? It's all about bringing truth to the roles you play, regardless of your personal feelings or beliefs...or sexual desires."

Other big names who snagged roles in this long-in-production project include Angelina Jolie as Alexander's mother (despite the fact that in reality she's just one year older than Farrell), Val Kilmer as Alexander's father, Rosario Dawson as his first wife and Anthony Hopkins as one of the young leader's top generals.

What was the toughest thing about playing this role?

"You're playing Alexander *the Great*! It's just a life with so much loss and so much ambition and so much destiny and so many questions and very few answers. It was physically, emotionally and psychologically draining. There was so much philosophy, thought and feeling and pain that went into it. For my money, it's a pretty sad story. It's not 'Alexander the Great — ta-da!' It's a pretty sad, heavy story." ▶▶



I got spanked last night.

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►► Did you see Richard Burton's *Alexander the Great* film?

"Yeah, I watched the Richard Burton one. Ours is not as stiffly classic.... I mean, Burton is a genius. But the whole piece was, for my money, far too soupy. Even ours will probably be too gentle. But they were barbaric animals, even the king. It wasn't sitting on the throne in a castle. He was on the battlefield with blood, sweat and tears. That society was rough. It was honest, but it was rough. They drank a lot, and they cussed a lot."

Speaking of cussing, how did Oliver Stone handle everyone's accents? You're not speaking Arabic, Greek or Latin, are you?

"Thank God, no [laughs]. Their dialect would've been something far more animal than, 'Hello, I'm Alexander, the King.' It would've been guttural, something that sounded, not Arabic, but something that sounded a little Latvian or Lithuanian. In ours, Oliver was lucky enough that he let us Irish boys use Irish accents, the Welsh boys use their Welsh accents and the couple of English actors use theirs. But it's primarily a Celtic sound."

How deep did Stone get into Alexander's sexuality?

"I mean, you know he was bisexual. And that's all you really even need to know. Actually, you don't even need to know

that, because there was no term for sexuality back then in respect to categorizing it as homosexuality, bisexuality or heterosexuality. It was a time when men and men laid together and they shared knowledge. And they laid together. And women had babies primarily, but later on in life, as we got more technologically adept and sociologically inept, we started to put titles on everything and branded everything. The few decided for the multitude what was right or wrong."

How does Stone compare to other directors you've worked with?

"Oh man, he was very honest with me from day one, very tough and he should've been.... He wouldn't be afraid to say things like, 'That was a sh-t take. It was terrible, terrible....' At the same time, when he told you that that was a great take, you knew that that was a great take."

You now have a one-year-old son with your ex, model Kim Bordenave. In what ways has fatherhood changed you?

"I don't know, man. It's just not like a major metamorphosis. The first time you hold your baby in your arms, I mean, a sense of strength and love washes over you. It washed over me and I never thought that was possible. Maybe I thought it was possible, but I thought that it was possible for my mother and ►►



Director Oliver Stone (forefront) with his star Colin Farrell (on horse) and crew

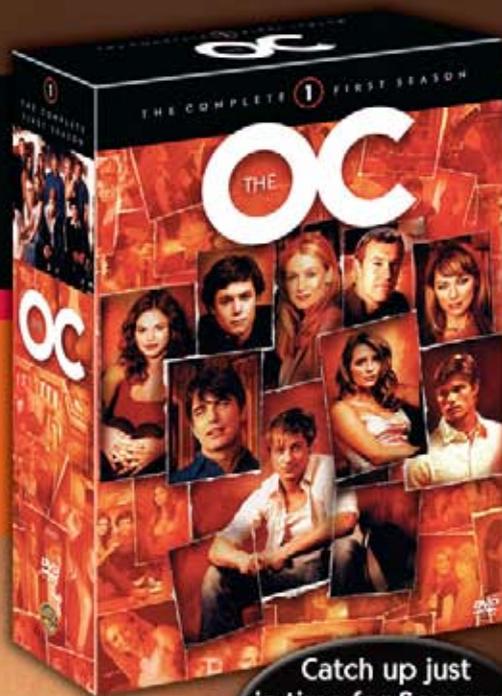
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Angelina Jolie keeps her on-screen son Colin Farrell in line

▶▶ father [when they held] me. But I mean, I love him in a different way and in a stronger way than I love my mother. It's a very strange thing. I mean, I adore my mother and she's everything to me. But it's a very strange love, and very beautiful love and very pure love, unconditional to the extreme. How's it changed me? I don't know."

Does your mother read a lot of the tabloid stories written about you?

"She does, and she puts half of the sh-t in her scrapbook [laughs]."

Are you romantically involved at the moment?

"No. Not at all, man."

These days, do you make more of an effort to try to balance your personal life with your career?

"Not really. I mean, maybe I should be thinking more into the future. But I dare not think too far into the future on the risk that I'll miss the present. I don't want to. The present is pretty good. I'm working hard. I have a beautiful son, and as long as I can be with him and as long as he always knows where his dad is, and I can go work as well, I'm fine."

Earlier this year, there was a lot of hoopla

about that fact that your full-frontal nude scene in *A Home at the End of the World* was cut. What did you make of that?

"What did I make of it? It was boring, especially the fact it had gotten so much coverage. At the time I thought, 'There's got to be more important things happening.'"

Do you think the controversy stemmed from the fact that there isn't much full-frontal male nudity in American films?

"I don't think that it's a problem with censorship or being Puritanical.... The reason that it was cut out was that it just wasn't right for the movie. It was a beautiful, gentle moment in the film and then all of a sudden you see [it] — it was just jarring [laughs]."

Are you able to go home to Ireland much?

"I can't. I've been on the road. I've lived out of a suitcase for five years. I have no place here. I have a place in Dublin. But I've been staying in hotels for five years."

Do you miss Dublin much?

"Do I miss Dublin? Yeah. Very much. But it'll always be there for me. It'll always be there. It'll always be my home." **F**

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

famous TRIVIA

1 Director Oliver Stone's *Alexander* hits theatres this month. There's another much-hyped movie about Alexander the Great's life that's still in pre-production. Who's directing it?

2 Where was *Birth* star Nicole Kidman born? Hint: It wasn't Australia.

3 In which 1984 slasher movie did *Finding Neverland*'s Johnny Depp make his big-screen debut?

4 *Bridget Jones: The Edge of Reason* comes out this month. On which Jane Austen book about manners and appearances was the first *Bridget Jones* movie patterned?

5 Name one of the two stars of the *Lord of the Rings* trilogy who provide voices for this month's puppet-horror sequel *Seed of Chucky*.

6 Which actor whose voice can be heard in the new animated feature *The Polar Express* died last year from complications related to HIV?

7 Name the 1990s TV show that made *Christmas with the Kranks*' Tim Allen a "household" name.

answers

1. Baz Luhrmann
2. Honolulu, Hawaii
3. *A Nightmare on Elm Street*
4. *Pride and Prejudice*
5. Brad Dourif or Billy Boyd
6. Michael Jeter
7. *Home Improvement*

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Bridg Over troubled Water

The first time Renée Zellweger played messed-up British singleton Bridget Jones in 2001's *Bridget Jones's Diary* it earned the actor her first Oscar nomination — which was a delightful surprise since pretty much anyone who'd read Helen Fielding's book on which the movie was based expected her to fall flat on her face.

How could a skinny, blond American with a Southern accent play Britain's quintessential wiseass, after all? Although Zellweger lost the statuette to Halle Berry that year, she was suddenly Oscar-worthy, earning another nomination for *Chicago* the following year, and finally winning a Supporting Actress Oscar this past February for *Cold Mountain*.



It looked like smooth sailing for Bridget Jones and Mark Darcy at the end of the first movie. But, what's this? Bridg has found a way to muck things up again?

RENÉE ZELLWEGER brings us up to date on our favourite hapless heroine | **BY BOB STRAUSS**

But will a second time as Bridg turn out as well?

This month, Zellweger is back in the granny panties of the neurotic London TV reporter in *Bridget Jones: The Edge of Reason*. The yellow-haired Texan with the funny last name (her mom's from Norway, her Swiss dad grew up in Australia, and she calls herself "probably as American as you can get") may have proved even her loudest skeptics wrong with her first, full-bodied embodiment of Bridget, but this *is* a sequel, and a good sequel tends to be the exception rather than the rule.

As Zellweger sees it, though, that's just another perception to prove wrong. "I like the challenge of it. I consider it to be fun. I find being inside of that creative process very rewarding," says the 35-year-old actor, dressed in designer jeans and a flattering black sweater during an early morning L.A.

interview. "I want to continue to learn things. I want to grow as a person and be smarter."

That's the spirit! And it doesn't sound like Fielding's self-sabotaging, semi-slacker Bridget at all. Of course, this focused achiever excels at playing characters who are nothing like herself — a Swingin' Sixties fashion freak in *Down with Love*, a Hasidic Jew in *A Price Above Rubies*, even a fish (voice work only, of course) for last month's animated *Shark Tale*.

And Zellweger assures us that — although playing Bridget is ground she has already covered — the character does grow in her own wayward way, even if that means mucking up her new relationship with Colin Firth's Mark Darcy. It seems Bridget's insecurities have not been quelled by the onset of her romance with the handsome barrister, a problem that's only exacerbated by the fact that he has a nearly perfect new assistant played by Australian actor Jacinda Barrett.

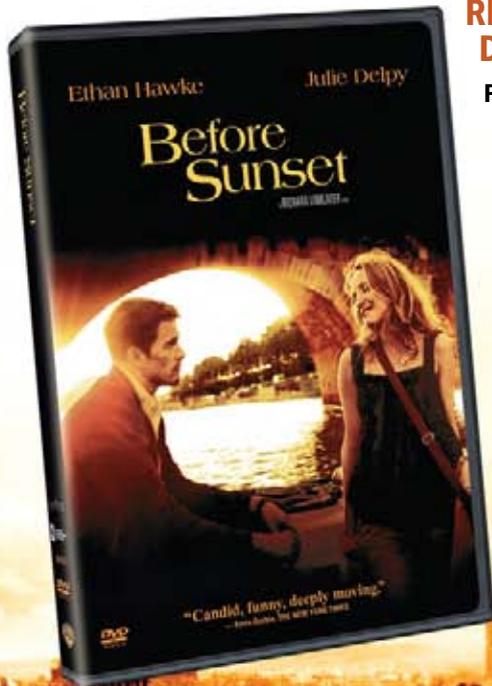
"Of course, it's the next phase in a person's life," Zellweger explains. "It's interesting to go back and try to remember Bridget's essence, but at the same time try to include the changes, the growth, how she might have evolved as a result of what she experienced, where she might be now in her new job and where she wants to go with that. With her relationship — now that she's got it, what's she gonna do with it? It's a really interesting experiment to play with every day, to make the decisions about where to show that she has grown and where she hasn't."

Speaking of, um, growth, what about this sequel round of weight gain? One of the unique elements of Fielding's book was that Bridget documented her daily weight struggle in her diary. In order to be convincing in the role, Zellweger gained 20 pounds for the first film. But as soon as shooting was over she shrunk to an alarmingly bony figure for *Chicago*.

Despite the fact that footage from the sequel clearly shows she gained even more weight this time around, Zellweger looked the picture of health last December when she jetted in to L.A. from *Edge of Reason*'s England set for a 48-hour *Cold Mountain* promotion blitz.

"I was watching you look at me and I thought, 'Here comes the weight thing,'" Zellweger jokes warily, fat being ►►

Two Beautiful ★★★★★ Films!



REUNITES THE ORIGINAL DIRECTOR AND STARS!

Filmmaker RICHARD LINKLATER

*School of Rock
Dazed and Confused*

ETHAN HAWKE

Taking Lives • Training Day

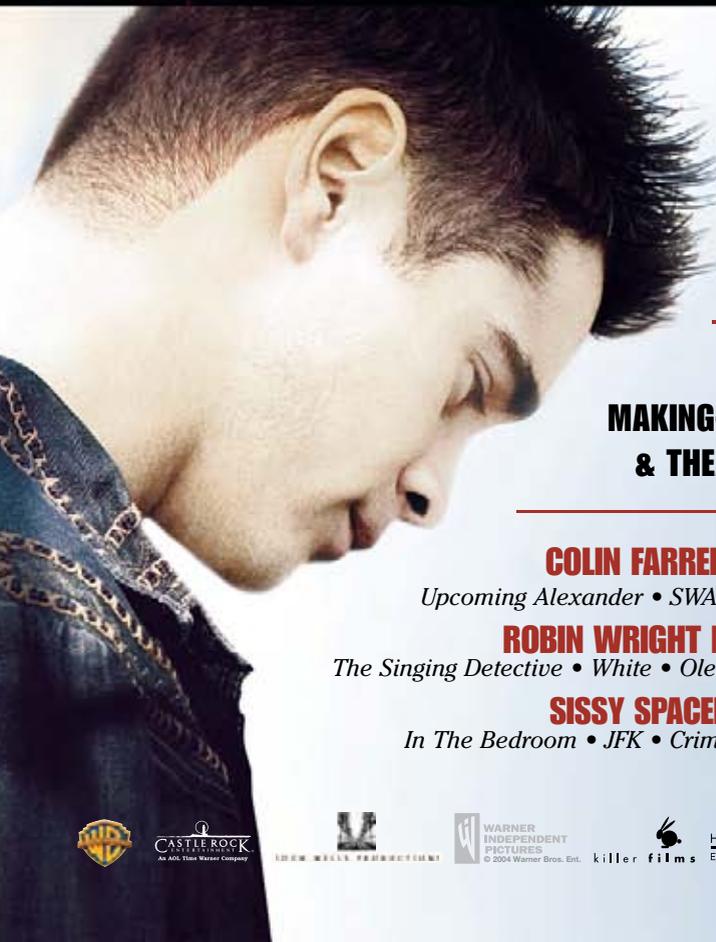
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- Roger Ebert,
“EBERT & ROPER”

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MAKING-OF DOCUMENTARY
& THEATRICAL TRAILER**

COLIN FARRELL

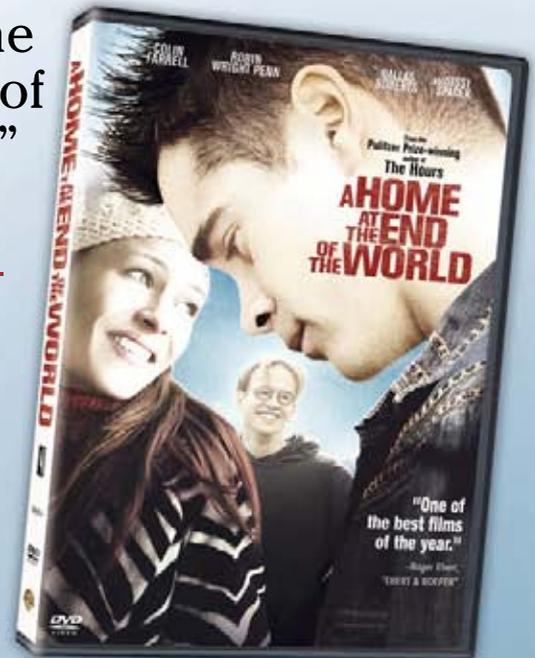
Upcoming Alexander • SWAT • Daredevil

ROBIN WRIGHT PENN

The Singing Detective • White • Oleander • Forrest Gump

SISSY SPACEK

In The Bedroom • JFK • Crimes of the Heart



OWN IT ON DVD NOVEMBER 2



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killer films

HART SHARP
ENTERTAINMENT

A Home at the End of the World © 2004 Window Pane Pictures Inc. © 2004 Warner Bros. Entertainment Inc. All rights reserved.



Mark Darcy (Colin Firth) loves Bridget (Renée Zellweger)



Daniel Cleaver (Hugh Grant) loves Bridget



Bridget loves her pals

►► her least-favourite Bridget-related topic. Then she explained that it's not losing all the weight she's concerned about as much as getting everything back in balance. "Being healthy, feeling energetic again, all the systems running smoothly and not in glucose shock all the time," she says.

And even if her weight was up and her levels were off, working as hard as she did on set certainly helped keep her fit.

"Renée works so, so hard," marvels Zellweger's co-star Jacinda Barrett. "When we were making this, she was also doing the *Cold Mountain* press on the weekends. Friday night she'd get on the plane, do interviews Saturday and Sunday, fly back and go straight back to work to shoot walking across London Bridge in winter, in summer clothes, being rained on. And she never complained! Never. Complained."

Within a few months of finishing the sequel, the actor was in Toronto — having returned to her waifish physique — to play opposite pugnacious Russell Crowe in the period boxing drama *Cinderella Man*. Crowe plays real-life boxer James Braddock, and Zellweger his wife.

If all goes as planned, the woman who just learned to sing and dance for *Chicago* will next play rock legend Janis Joplin in the long-in-development bio-pic *Piece of My Heart*. Transforming into the tormented hippie legend sounds like a Zellweger trifecta: hefty

seemingly unremarkable women with uncommon wisdom. Even her comedy jobs, like the Bridget films and the Farrelly brothers' *Me, Myself and Irene*, reflect a down-to-earth naturalness.

Perhaps it's that earthy quality that has made her so irresistible to some of her male co-stars. Zellweger has enjoyed several set-generated romances, the best-known resulting in an aborted engagement to *Irene* co-star Jim Carrey, and, lately, an off-and-on situation with White Stripes guitarist Jack White who played her love interest in *Cold Mountain*. Never married, Zellweger declines to discuss relationships in public.

But still the question hovers: As her work has become more ambitious and demanding, has it taken its toll on her personal life?

"The scheduling is tough," she admits. "I've had a lot of passion projects in the last couple of years that have come along. I can't remember who said, 'If you don't have to do it, don't do it.' But there can be a very personal reason that seems insignificant to everyone else, and if you have to do it for that little personal reason, then you should."

"Often, in the last couple of years, I've thought, 'Okay, I'm a little tired, but let's go.' And I'm so glad that I did. Your love for the work propels you along. But when those projects start to overlap, trying to keep all of the promises you've made, in terms of your responsibilities and things, is a little bit challenging sometimes." **F**

Bob Strauss is an entertainment writer based in Los Angeles.

"It's interesting to go back and try to remember Bridget's essence," explains Zellweger

new challenge, immensely hard work and no allowance for actorly vanity.

"It's fun to be a girl and it's fun to put on a dress and some shoes and feel pretty. It's nice to have that prerogative; but I'm not so interested in the kind of work that comes as a result of having great beauty or depends on having great beauty," she says. "I don't find it to be that rewarding, really. I hope I don't have to worry about that. I don't want to."

Early in her career, the former cheerleader from the Houston suburbs did indeed make her name playing everygal roles. Both parts in her breakthrough year of 1996 — in the acclaimed period indie *The Whole Wide World* and the Tom Cruise romantic comedy *Jerry Maguire* — showcased Zellweger's gift for playing



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A "clever, playful thriller" (*The New York Times*) and the scariest of the series, *Child's Play* delivers pulse-quickenning jolts, fast-paced action and knuckle-whitening suspense.

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She wears it well

Whether dressed up for the Oscars or dressed down for a bit of shopping, **RENÉE ZELLWEGER** has become one of Hollywood's new fashion icons | **BY LIZA HERZ**

When *Vogue* magazine invited Renée Zellweger to the Paris haute couture shows in early 2001 to shoot a cover, their timing was perfect. With the imminent release of *Bridget Jones's Diary*, *Vogue* was gambling that Zellweger was poised for superstardom.

The rest is history.

Despite dire predictions that she wasn't right for the role, the nervy Texan took London by storm, capturing England's beloved, chain-smoking singleton to perfection. Her flawless accent and generous curves (the result of a De Niro-like weight gain), charmed audiences not only in Bridget's Britain but the world over.

Here was an actor doubly blessed, unveiling an ability to disappear into difficult roles even while projecting an Old Hollywood glamour on the world stage. Zellweger's trip to Paris for *Vogue* was a formative moment. It introduced her to fashion's masters, from Karl Lagerfeld to John Galliano, and opened her eyes to the exacting craft of bespoke tailoring.

Just look at her now.

From the groundbreaking, canary-yellow strapless vintage Jean Dessès she wore at the 2001 Oscars, to her off-the-shoulder (vintage again) Valentino at the 2003 Golden Globes, Zellweger conveys innate glamour but also a naturalness that allows her to wear something as dramatic as white elbow-length satin gloves — as she did at the 2003 CFDA Fashion Awards — without looking like she's playing dress-up.

Neither is she afraid to follow her own instincts, even when they push against the grain. Consider the 2003 Oscars, which were expected to be "subdued" in the run-up to the U.S. military invasion of Iraq. Most stars quietly conformed to the Academy's low-key dress code but Renée's blood-red Carolina Herrera gown (with matching killer jewels, of course) evoked elegance without seeming diplomatically offside.

Despite this solidly assured glamour, Zellweger knows how to dress down with the best of them. A dog-walking, basketball-playing tomboy from way back, she chooses comfort first when she's not in the public eye.

During the Toronto shoot for *Chicago*, she was famously given the heave from Gucci's chic downtown boutique for bringing a takeout coffee into the store, until another patron pointed out who she was. Paparazzi shots always show her at her most anonymous — but often with a classic Hermès bag slung carelessly over one arm.

Try as she might, it's simply impossible for Zellweger to elude the media's judgmental gaze. Her first Bridget-inspired weight gain saw her lose the cover of *Harper's Bazaar* when then-editor Kate Betts deemed her "too fat," while her latest weight fluctuations for the movie's sequel have set off similar "hot or not" debates.

Big or small, done up or dressed down, the girl just has a knack for making fashion news.



Zellweger pulls off the white gloves in a Carolina Herrera number at the 2003 CFDA Fashion Awards

PHOTO BY JIM SPELLMAN/WIREIMAGE



Red-hot mama! Zellweger wears Carolina Herrera at the 2003 Oscars



When Renée Zellweger grabbed Avi Bader at a Toronto bar demanding to know where she got her brooch, she kick-started Bader's own budding career as a designer. This **Brooch** is similar to the one Bader sent Zellweger as a "Thank You." A unique mix of photos, freshwater and faux pearls in antique settings, the brooches (**\$30 and up**) are available through avibader@sphere.ca.



Celebrity manicurist Deborah Lippmann created **Just Walk Away Renée**, a luscious black cherry nail colour to reflect Zellweger's Old Hollywood glamour (**Lippmann Collection, \$24, Park Hyatt Stillwater Spa, Calgary and Toronto**).



PHOTO BY GROSSBY GROUP INTERNATIONAL



The ultimate fashion staple, an **Hermès Kelly Bag** like Renée's (hers is vintage crocodile from L.A. boutique Decades), will set you back **\$25,000** but the long waiting list gives you time to save up.

things |

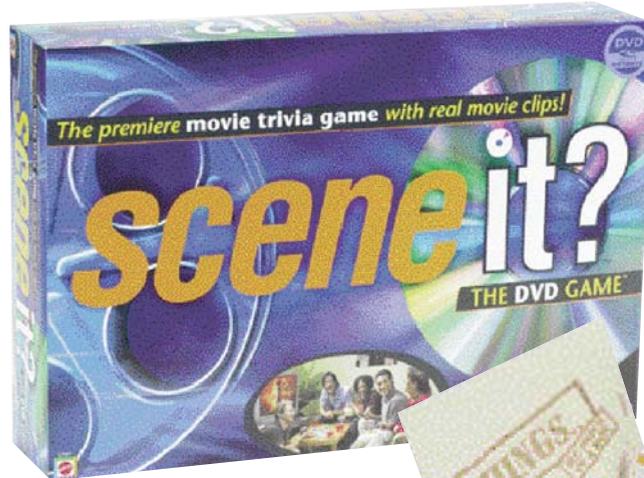
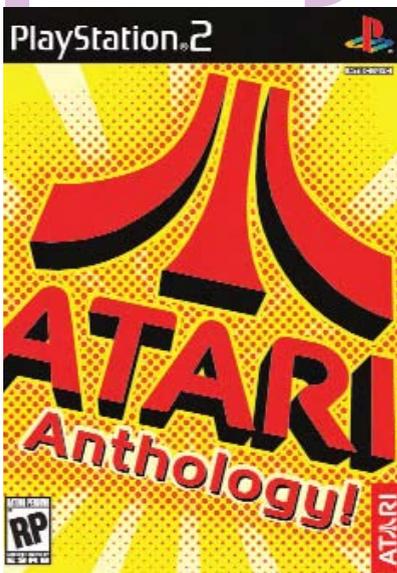
Christmas time is here (almost)

C'mon. You know it's not too early to start thinking about your holiday shopping list. For once, why not get a head start so you can find those things your friends and family really want. We've got some great ideas to get you started

Is it a phone? Is it a gaming platform? Yep, it's both. Say goodbye to playing simplistic puzzle games on your cellphone and hello to real titles with Nokia's **N-Gage QD Game Deck** (\$150, including a two-year phone plan). *Spider-Man 2*, *The Sims: Bustin' Out* and *Tony Hawk's Pro Skater* are just a few of the games you can play thanks to a high-resolution colour display with 4,096 colours. Play alone or go head-to-head via Bluetooth wireless technology. Games will set you back \$45 to \$55 each.



play



Have an old-school gamer on your list but don't have a huge wad of cash to shell out for a pile of new games? The **Atari Anthology** is a great deal — 85 classic Atari games for play on PlayStation 2 and Xbox (including old faves *Asteroids*, *Pong* and *Millipede*) for only \$30.

Board games are a great way to distract the family after the turkey's been reduced to bare bones. **Scene It** (\$50) is perfect for the movie-know-it-alls on your list. This DVD-based board game has you answering questions based on movie clips, puzzles and trivia. **Things** (\$40), on the other hand, features a box of cards that offer topics like "Things that could get you arrested."

Each player then writes down an answer and everyone has to guess who wrote what.



wear



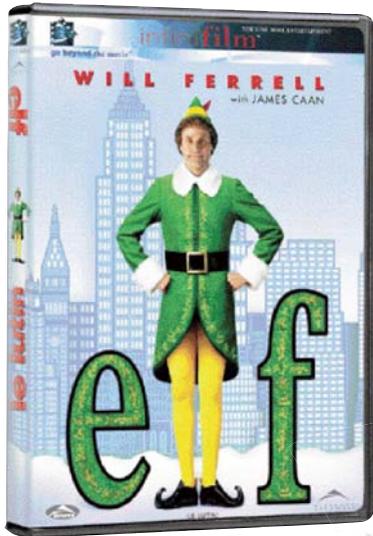
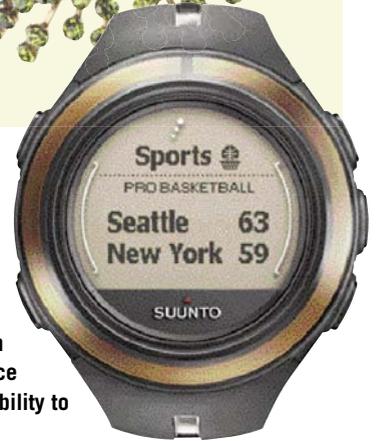
It's hard to buy clothes as gifts. Even if you're sure of your friend's style, size and fit are still big question marks. So get them fashionable accessories instead. Three great options from Winners are the

Leopard Print Fringed Scarf (\$17), **Faux Fur Collar with Satin Ribbon Bow** (\$40) and **Brooches** (\$70 to \$85). For the guys, try a classic **Striped Knit Beanie** (\$60) from Timberland.



relax

Take one step closer to life in the *Star Trek* universe with the **Smart Watch** (\$180 to \$1,200 depending on style) from MSN Direct. Sign up for their Smart Plan service (\$55 per year) and have local and international news, horoscopes, health info, weather, TV schedules, sports stats and stock updates beamed directly to your wrist. With the Smart Plan Plus (\$80 per year) you also get a personal date book and can receive messages via MSN Messenger. Even without any service plan you'll get access to national news and weather, and the ability to shoot laser beams at your enemies. (Just kidding.)

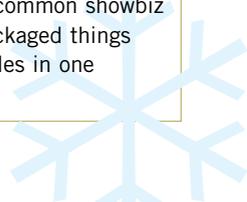
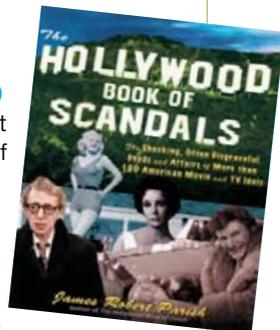


Will Ferrell's *Elf*, a silly but sweet Christmas comedy about a six-foot human raised as an elf at the North Pole, is coming to DVD just in time for Christmas. This two-disc set (\$41) includes "Buddy's Adventure Game," "Elf Karaoke," "Read-Along" and "Make Your Own Christmas Book," as well as deleted and alternate scenes.



The John Board Hollywood Survival Kit (\$85) makes a nice gift for fans of homeopathy. Board is an assistant director who has worked on movies like *Agnes of God* and *Naked Lunch* where he earned the nickname "Dr. John" because he always had the right natural solution to common showbiz ailments — hangovers, sore muscles, stage fright. Here he's packaged things like calendula cream, Echinacea throat spray and aconite globules in one convenient set. Order at www.hollywoodsurvivalkit.com.

Everyone needs a brainless read to wash away Christmas tension. If you have a pal who loves the seamier side of the movie business get them **The Hollywood Book of Scandals** (\$25) by James Robert Parish, author of the equally seamy *The Hollywood Book of Death*.



TWO GAMES TO RULE THEM ALL

Lord of the Rings fans will have sore thumbs by month's end | BY SCOTT GARDNER

LORD OF THE RINGS: THE BATTLE FOR MIDDLE-EARTH (PC) LORD OF THE RINGS: THE THIRD AGE GBA, GC, PC, PS2, XBOX

For the first time in three years there will be no new *Lord of the Rings* movie this autumn. But if you still crave a fresh look at Minas Tirith or some quality orc-bashing time, there are two big new *Rings*-themed games that might fill that aching void.

The *Battle for Middle-Earth* is a real-time strategy war game that lets you replay the major battles from all three *LOTR* movies while commanding armies of Elves, Ents and humans. In fact, the game puts you in control of just about every aspect of the struggle, from all-out combat among Middle-earth's huge armies to controlling the heroes and managing your supplies.

You'll also hear the familiar voice of Galadriel (Cate Blanchett) narrating the good guys' campaign, and Saruman (Christopher Lee) speaking for the bad guys. That's right, if you're one of those hobbit-haters who thought Sauron was the real hero, you can serve the dark side, managing its legions of Orcs, Oliphaunts and Uruk-hai.



The Battle for Middle-earth

But if determining the fate of all Middle-earth is just too much pressure, *The Third Age*, an all-new role-playing game (RPG), offers a more intimate experience in the Jackson-Tolkien universe.

Although its timeline is concurrent with the movies, the characters in *The Third Age* aren't members of the Fellowship, but rather ordinary folk whose adventures run parallel to those of Frodo's gang.

As your party — a man of Gondor, a Ranger, an Elf, a Dwarf and a pair of Rohirrim — traverses Middle-earth, players intersect with major events from the film trilogy while pursuing their own quests. For example, your party will have to take on the Nazgul that Arwen swept away in a rush of water during *The Fellowship of the Ring*.



The Third Age



HALO 2 XBOX

Since November 2001, the first-person shooter *Halo: Combat Evolved* has swept the gaming awards, influenced countless successors and sold more than four million copies worldwide, making this sequel one of the

most anticipated Xbox games ever.

Here's the set-up: the defeat of the Covenant in the first *Halo* game was only a temporary victory, and the alien attackers have renewed their mission to wipe out humankind. The invaders have breached Earth's defences and the few surviving forces are in disarray. Once again you must assume the role of genetically enhanced supersoldier Master Chief, and lead the human military's resistance against the relentless Covenant invaders.

Halo 2 will feature new vehicles, new weapons, new environments, new enemies, new allies and significantly improved graphics. This time out, players will wield dual weapons, board opponents' vehicles and set out on multiplayer online missions using Xbox Live.

GOLDENEYE: ROGUE AGENT GC, PS2, XBOX

Why save the world when you can rule it? Venturing where no previous James Bond game has dared to tread, *GoldenEye: Rogue Agent* lets players experience life as a high-rolling, cold-hearted scoundrel.

As an aspiring "00" agent dismissed from MI-6 for reckless brutality, you are hired as an enforcer by wealthy supervillain Auric Goldfinger. You then cross paths with such legendary allies and enemies as Oddjob, Xenia Onatopp and, of course, Pussy Galore



on globe-spanning missions of vengeance and demolition as you rise through the ranks of the underworld.

Featured modes include story-driven campaign missions, deathmatch-style simulator trials and objective-based war games for single, multiplayer and online play. Even better, Dame Judi Dench voices M and Christopher Lee (you know, Saruman) will reprise his role as Scaramanga, the big bad from *The Man with the Golden Gun*.

PLAYBOY: THE MANSION PC, PS2, XBOX

This social-simulation and empire-building game resembles other life simulations, but instead of doing the dishes or feeding the baby, you'll be wearing your finest silk pajamas and sipping cocktails with Playmates.

As Hugh Hefner, your goal is to build Playboy into a dynamic cultural icon and powerful brand. You start by literally constructing yourself a mansion and living the Playboy lifestyle. Each character in the game has needs and motives, so important decisions abound: will you watch a movie in the Theatre Room or the Bunnies bouncing on the trampoline? Life can be so cruel.

Finally, since fame and fortune don't come easy you must manage your magazine's editorial staff, hustle celebrity interviews — which gets easier as your fame grows — and oversee sexy photo shoots by picking models, locations and, um, costumes?

To really make it big you'll need creativity, a positive sexual attitude, an eye for talent and, as the world's most fabulous host, you better know exactly how real-life celebs like Tom Arnold and Sum 41 like their martinis.





SO, BENTLEY,
WHAT'S THE JOB?



WELL, CLOCKWERK'S PARTS HAVE
BEEN STOLEN AND WE'RE THE PRIME SUSPECTS
ON INSPECTOR FOX'S LIST.



SLY, WE'VE GOT TO
CLEAR OUR NAMES.



AH, YES. SHE'S
REALLY QUITE LOVELY
WHEN SHE'S ANGRY.

OH, SORRY...

AND THE
MURRAY-NATOR'S
GOT YA COVERED!



THIS IS OUR BIGGEST JOB YET, SO THE THREE OF US REALLY HAVE TO
WORK TOGETHER. BUT THE WHOLE JOB IS BLOWN...



...IF WE DON'T HAVE SOMEONE
AT THE CONTROLS.



ARE YOU IN...
OR OUT?



PlayStation 2



Cartoon Violence

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LIVE IN YOUR WORLD.
PLAY IN OURS.

new releases

GO HOME WITH **HARRY POTTER, HERO** OR **SPIDER-MAN**

NOVEMBER 2

AROUND THE WORLD IN 80 DAYS

Stars: Steve Coogan, Jackie Chan
Director: Frank Coraci (*The Waterboy*)
Story: This Disney family adventure strands hilarious U.K. TV star Coogan in numerous exotic, handsome-looking locations, while Jackie Chan provides comedic chop-socky. And watch for a disturbingly bewigged Arnold Schwarzenegger as a randy, hot tub-loving Turkish ruler. **DVD Extras:** alternate opening, music video

BEFORE SUNSET

Stars: Ethan Hawke, Julie Delpy
Director: Richard Linklater (*Before Sunrise*)
Story: In 1995's *Before Sunrise*, two young strangers — American Jesse (Hawke) and Parisian Celine (Delpy) — spent a single, intimate and profound night together in Vienna. Nine years later they meet unexpectedly in Paris.

NOVEMBER 5

SHREK 2

Voices: Mike Myers, Eddie Murphy
Director: Andrew Adamson (*Shrek*)
Story: After battling a fire-breathing dragon and the evil Lord Farquaad to win the oversized green hand of Princess Fiona, Shrek now faces his greatest challenge: the in-laws. **DVD Extras:** technical goofs, more than 20 games and activities

NOVEMBER 16

THE CHRONICLES OF RIDDICK

Stars: Vin Diesel, Dame Judi Dench
Director: David Twohy (*Pitch Black*)
Story: The badass hero from 2000's *Pitch Black* must face the evil Lord Marshal in an apocalyptic battle to decide the fate of all beings — living and dead. Now *that's* pressure.

ELF

Stars: Will Ferrell, James Caan
Director: Jon Favreau (*Swingers*)
Story: Ferrell is funny and sweet — but not sugary — as Buddy, a man raised as an elf at the North Pole, who sets off into the outside world to find his real family. **DVD Extras:** sure-to-be-hilarious commentary by Favreau and Ferrell

NOVEMBER 23

HARRY POTTER AND THE PRISONER OF AZKABAN

Stars: Daniel Radcliffe, Emma Watson
Director: Alfonso Cuarón (*Y tu mamá también*)
Story: Harry and friends begin their third year at Hogwarts faced with an escaped prisoner who seems to be stalking the young wizard. **DVD Extras:** double-disc set includes three interactive challenges and a sing-along with the Hogwarts choir

THE TERMINAL

Stars: Tom Hanks, Catherine Zeta-Jones
Director: Steven Spielberg (*A.I.*)
Story: An East European tourist (Hanks) must live in a NYC airport until his missing paperwork is sorted out. And this act of creative vagrancy lands him a romance with Catherine Zeta-Jones. Where's that shredder again? **DVD Extras:** featurettes and interviews with Tom and Steve

NOVEMBER 30

HERO

Stars: Jet Li, Maggie Cheung
Director: Zhang Yimou (*Shanghai Triad*)
Story: A series of *Rashomon*-like flashbacks — full of balletic martial arts and epic battles — shape the story of a man who defeats three assassins to protect the most powerful warlord in ancient China. **DVD Extras:** “behind-the-scenes” featurettes, storyboards

SPIDER-MAN 2

Stars: Tobey Maguire, Kirsten Dunst
Director: Sam Raimi (*Spider-Man*)
Story: A conflicted Peter Parker (Maguire) tries to shake off his Spider-Man identity, but must swing back into action when the twisted and twisty Doc Ock (Alfred Molina) threatens his loved ones. **DVD Extras:** a 12-part “making of” doc, a Doc Ock doc

NEW to DVD GONE WITH THE WIND November 9th

Frankly, it's about time someone gave a damn about getting this all-time classic the DVD treatment it deserves.

Grab a scorecard and try to follow these secret passions and forbidden hook-ups... As the American Civil War destroys their homes, livelihoods and a generation of young men (all in magnificent Technicolor, by the way), hot-tempered Southern beauty Scarlett O'Hara (Vivien Leigh) loves the gentlemanly Ashley Wilkes (Leslie Howard). Meanwhile, smug Rhett Butler (Clark Gable) loves Scarlett.

But Ashley marries his genteel cousin — yep, cousin, it *was* 1864 — Melanie (Olivia de Havilland) instead, believing she will be a more reliable mate than Scarlett, who finally weds Rhett, but continues to pine for her beloved Ashley. And then the tragedies *really* start to pile up.

This package is spread across two full dual-layer discs, presented in its original 1.33:1 aspect ratio and remixed in Dolby Digital 5.1. Extras include audio commentary by film historian Rudy Behlmer, two 60-minute docs on Clark Gable and Vivien Leigh, the 1989 documentary “The Making of a Legend: *Gone With the Wind*,” behind-the-scenes footage, still galleries and trailers.

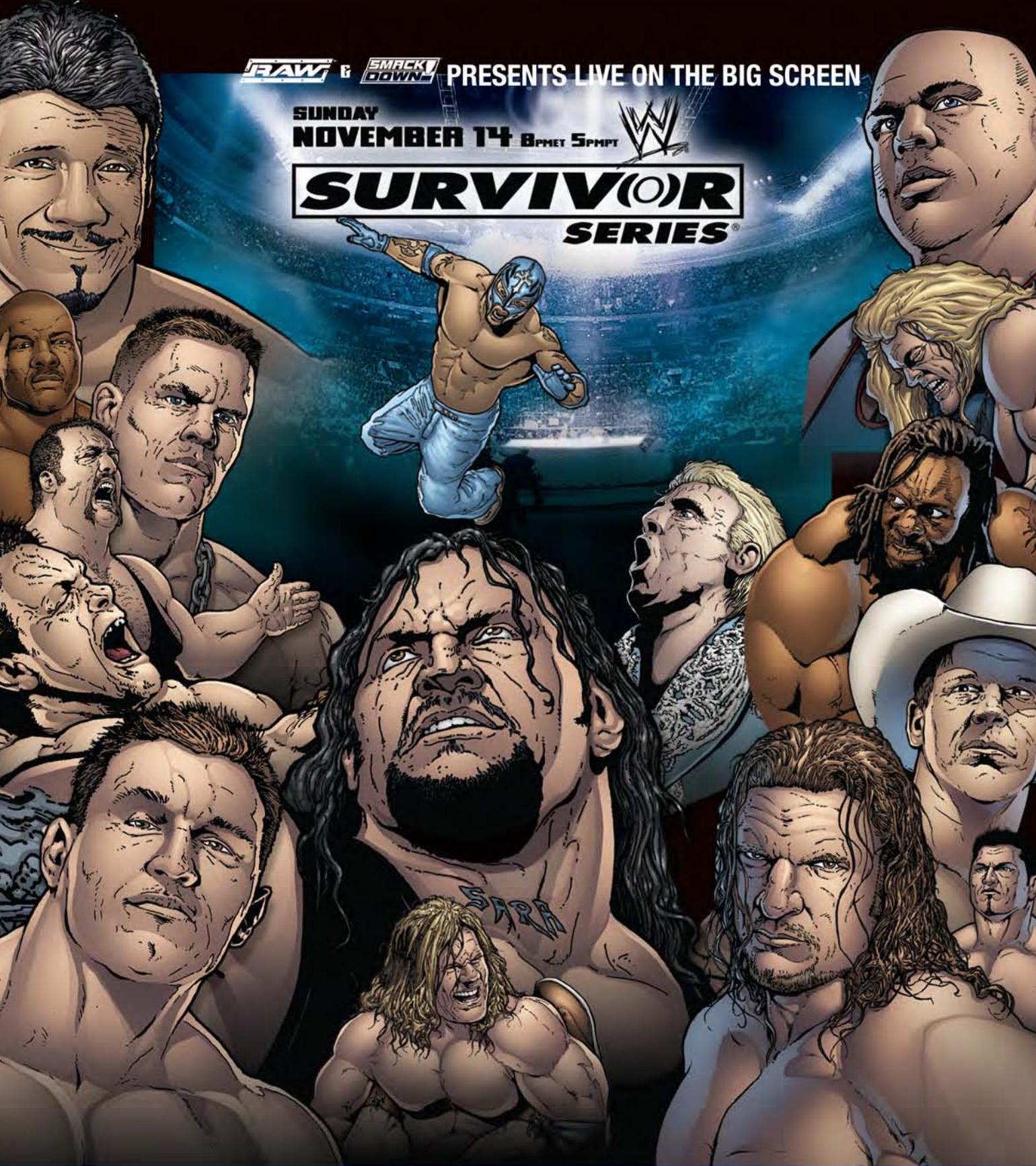
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november



KATIA SMIRNOVA

HOROSCOPE | BY DAN LIEBMAN

Scorpio

October 23 >> November 21

Following a recent setback, a pet project picks up lots of steam. You're also gaining ground in a competitive situation. People's moods rub off on you, especially in the second half of the month.

Sagittarius

November 22 >> December 22

Family members continue to support your decisions, even controversial ones. On the other hand, a neighbour or friend may be in a less than cooperative mood. Try not to be too hard on yourself, especially around the 20th. There could be good financial news by month's end.

Capricorn

December 23 >> January 20

This is an excellent month to present your point of view, either verbally or in writing. You're persuasive *and* have a light touch. Monitor situations involving home repairs. Late-month is not the best time to make your own rules, especially in finance-related matters.

Aquarius

January 21 >> February 19

This is a good time to set goals for 2005. Around the middle of the month, you show your friends how loyal you are — and probably find out more about them than you want. Opt for written agreements. Be cautious at the end of November, when you tend to be gullible.

Pisces

February 20 >> March 20

You connect with someone from your past. Just remember that you have both probably changed since the last encounter. Be careful not to put too much pressure on yourself, especially around the 15th. Try to devote more time to your overall appearance.

Aries

March 21 >> April 20

You can land an assignment or rebuild a relationship, but you have to be sure to take advantage of opportunities when they appear. Carefully work out arrangements involving shared finances.

Taurus

April 21 >> May 22

Your influence on others is strong, and you continue to make a good impression when it matters. Psychic powers are on and off — just don't get carried away with them. Plan to make some sort of presentation around the 15th. Find new ways to manage stress.

Gemini

May 23 >> June 21

You have a sharp eye for details, while perseverance pays off when it comes to bargain-hunting. A friend is willing to open up after the 20th. Be sure to provide a comfortable environment. It's a good time to sharpen your mechanical or technical skills.

Cancer

June 22 >> July 22

This month follows an unusually orderly path, and you can tie up loose ends by the 30th. You'll meet lots of new people, but your first impressions of them can be misleading. It's a good time to get in touch with the environment and take up an outdoor hobby.

Leo

July 23 >> August 22

The emphasis is on balance. For example, you'll be involved in a mentally stimulating task, so be sure to enjoy a new physical activity. Expect to assume a big family responsibility. Balance things by pampering yourself — and don't feel the least bit guilty.

Virgo

August 23 >> September 22

Your ego continues to rebuild, thanks to a heap of unexpected — but much-deserved — praise. You have a better grasp of where a relationship is going, and find it easier to plan your next move.

Libra

September 23 >> October 22

This month is less emotionally draining than the last few weeks have been. It's a good time to catch up on all sorts of stuff, but watch out for an inclination to do things in reverse order of priority. A stalled relationship — personal or professional — is on track before the 30th.

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS



- 1st: Lyle Lovett
- 2nd: k.d. lang
- 3rd: Dennis Miller
- 4th: Sean "P. Diddy" Combs
- 5th: Tatum O'Neal
- 6th: Ethan Hawke
- 7th: Joni Mitchell
- 8th: Parker Posey
- 9th: Lou Ferrigno
- 10th: Roy Scheider

- 11th: Leonardo DiCaprio
- 12th: David Schwimmer
- 13th: Whoopi Goldberg
- 14th: D.B. Sweeney
- 15th: Ed Asner
- 16th: Lisa Bonet
- 17th: Danny DeVito
- 18th: Owen Wilson
- 19th: Jodie Foster
- 20th: Bo Derek
- 21st: Goldie Hawn

- 22nd: Jamie Lee Curtis
- 23rd: Oded Fehr
- 24th: Colin Hanks
- 25th: Christina Applegate
- 26th: Tina Turner
- 27th: Michael Vartan
- 28th: Jon Stewart
- 29th: Howie Mandell
- 30th: Ben Stiller





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Stars

DISCUSS THE SUPERNATURAL

| BY SUSAN GRANGER

DREW BARRYMORE "I believe in astrology, palmistry, tarot cards. Nature is my temple. I believe in cosmic reactions. People talk from the heart, the mind, the body. They never talk about the tummy. The tummy tells a lot."

MADONNA "I feel like I'm on this spiritual quest journey, and I'm searching for answers. I've studied many beliefs, including astrology and feng shui, and find them helpful in my daily life."

CHER "After Sonny [Bono] died, I consulted psychic James Van Praagh [*Talking to Heaven: A Medium's Message of Life After Death*]. He told me things that only Sonny could have known — and Sonny's sense of humour came through. My session with him was great. But did it change my life? No. Do I believe any more strongly in [the afterlife] than I did before? No."

JEWEL "I was raised in the great Alaskan wilderness. I believe in the Ottawa Indian culture. Spirituality has always infused, vaporously, all that I am. My whole goal is to keep my spirit intact. If that doesn't happen, none of this is worth it."

KEANU REEVES "I believe in metaphysics. Consider this: *The Matrix* trilogy is — at its essence — a metaphysical action-thriller. Its concept is that the life we are living is not real, that there is no objective reality. I have often considered that perhaps life is an illusion."

ROBIN WILLIAMS "I know I have experienced several accurate prophetic glimpses into my future. I meditate, use creative visualization and believe in past lives."

ALLY SHEEDY "I have worked with the mystic Brother Charles for many years and I feel his synchronicity tapes have changed my life."

TED DANSON "I first became interested in spiritual matters when I took Werner Erhard's class in EST [Erhard Seminar Training]. I've tried palm readers, astrologers and psychic sensitives — and, mostly, I

believe in destiny. I don't know much about prophecies but you can certainly observe tendencies and patterns. All this stuff is great."

DONALD TRUMP "Since I often do business with Asian markets, I hired a feng shui practitioner to help with some of our design principles. It has made my Asian colleagues feel more comfortable."

LEVAR BURTON "When I was in my teens I became a seminary student, studying for the Catholic priesthood. Today, my ideas are less traditional. I see various channels, like crystals, as tools to get me where I want to go. Meditation is part of my process, so is rebirthing and ritual sweating, an ancient Native American ceremony of purification. My goal is to align myself with the spirit that connects me to all things, the spirit that I have in common with every other atom that exists."

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Superior Image Quality – the optical know how from Canon's superior digital camera technology guarantees beautiful images every time.

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Offer subject to change without notice. Nokia Rockstar contest runs from August 16, 2004 through December 31, 2004. Nokia Jet Set contest runs from August 16, 2004 through December 31, 2004. Purchase a Nokia handset between August 16, 2004 and December 31, 2004 and go to www.nokiaunwired.ca to enter and for no purchase information. Each Rockstar contest entry is automatically entered into the Nokia Jet Set contest. For entries after September 30, 2004, 1 Grand prize consisting of a VIP package for 2 to a Clear Channel Entertainment concert (exact performer and location to be determined by contest sponsor at the time of the draw) including limousine transportation and tickets approx. value \$1,160) to be won and awarded for Nokia Rockstar. 1 Grand Prize consisting of a VIP package for 2 to a Clear Channel Entertainment concert in the USA (exact performer and location to be determined by contest sponsor at the time of the draw) including travel and accommodation (approx. value \$5,250) to be won and awarded for Nokia Jet Set. Mathematical skill-testing question required. NO PURCHASE NECESSARY. Open to Canadian residents. See full contest rules and details at www.nokiaunwired.ca. ©Nokia 2004. All rights reserved. Nokia and Nokia Unwired are trademarks or registered trademarks of Nokia Corporation.