

Your guide to the buzz movies
at the Toronto International Film Festival

Famous

september 2000 | volume 1 number 9 |

canada's entertainment lifestyle magazine

Denzel Washington
ON *RETURN OF THE TITANS*

Hallie Kate Eisenberg
TALKS *BEAUTIFUL*

DEBORAH COX PICKS HER
FIVE FAVOURITE FILMS

SPOTLIGHT ON:
NICOLE KIDMAN,
KIEFER SUTHERLAND &
PHILIP SEYMOUR HOFFMAN

ROSEANNE,
RICHARD GERE
AND OTHER CELEBS
REVEAL THEIR MOST
OUTRAGEOUS
WISHES

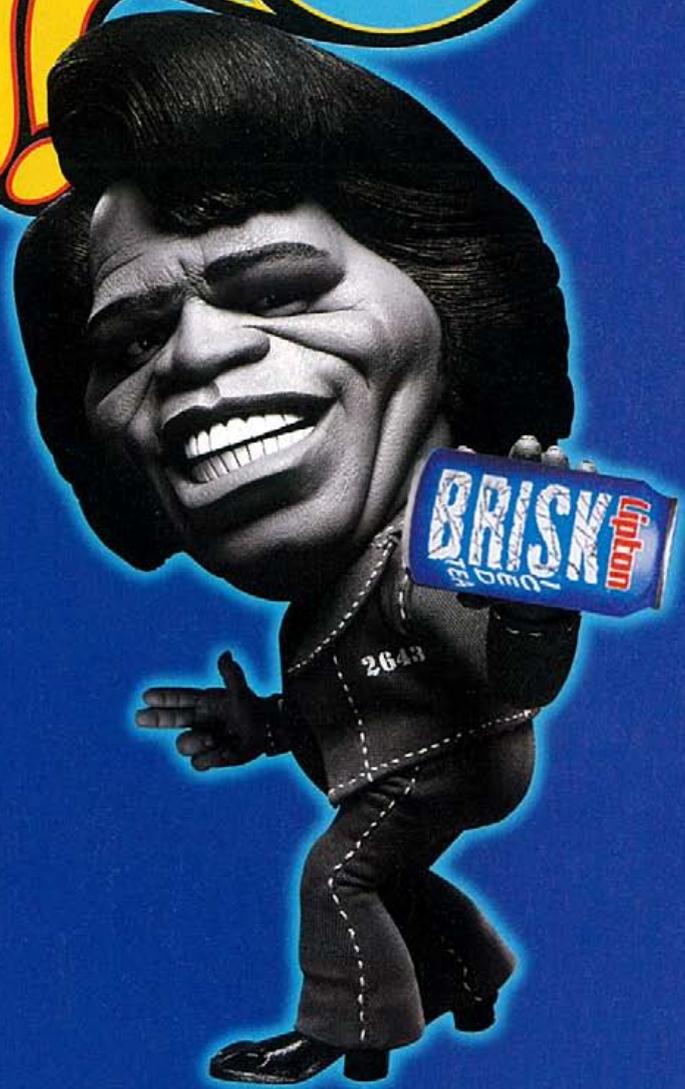
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Billy Crudup?

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contents

Famous | volume 1 | number 9 |

14



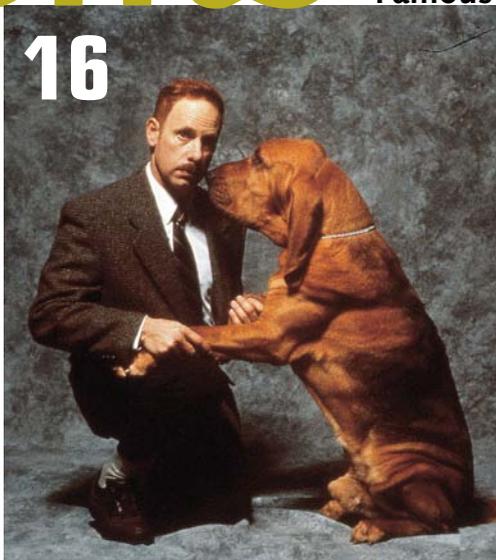
FEATURES

- 16 FILTERING THE BUZZ**
The movies to watch for at the Toronto International Film Festival
- 19 SHE'S A BEAUTY**
Eight-year-old Hallie Kate Eisenberg isn't just a Pepsi-pushing pretty girl. With her new role in *Beautiful*, she strengthens her position as one of Hollywood's biggest little stars **By Sean Daly**
- 20 OLYMPIAN EFFORTS**
In honour of the 27th Olympiad, we check out how the biggest sporting event of all has fared on the silver screen **By Michael Leo**
- 24 DENZEL GETS REAL**
In *Remember the Titans*, Denzel Washington plays a real-life football coach who taught a community about racial tolerance. Denzel says it's familiar ground for many reasons **By Stephen Schaefer**

COVER STORY

- 26 BILLY CRUDUP: ALMOST FAMOUS**
As one of his generation's up-and-coming stars, Billy Crudup is just waiting for his big break. He may have found it with Cameron Crowe's much-anticipated *Almost Famous*. But does he care? **Stephen Schaefer** finds out
- ON THE COVER** Billy Crudup

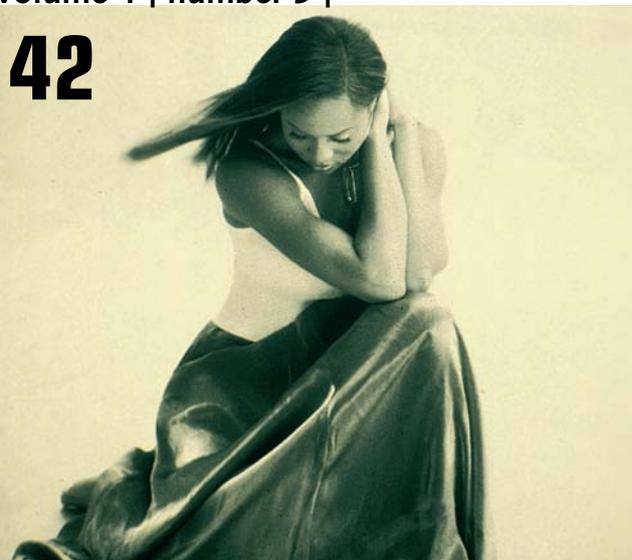
16



DEPARTMENTS

- 6 EDITORIAL**
- 8 LETTERS**
- 10 THE BIG PICTURE**
A peek at current flicks including *Bait* and *Nurse Betty*
- 14 THE PLAYERS**
Vital bio info about Nicole Kidman, Philip Seymour Hoffman and Kiefer Sutherland
- 22 FAMOUS TRIVIA**
- 28 COMING SOON**
- 30 ON THE SLATE**
- 32 THINGS**
Back-to-school gear
- 34 CUI-SEEN**
Love, soup and Penelope Ann Miller
- 42 FIVE FAVOURITE FILMS**
Deborah Cox makes her picks
- 43 ON VIDEO**
New releases including *Any Given Sunday* and *Mission to Mars*
- 44 FAMOUS LAST WORDS**
Arnold Schwarzenegger, Jamie Lee Curtis and other stars reveal their most outrageous wishes
- 46 HOROSCOPE**

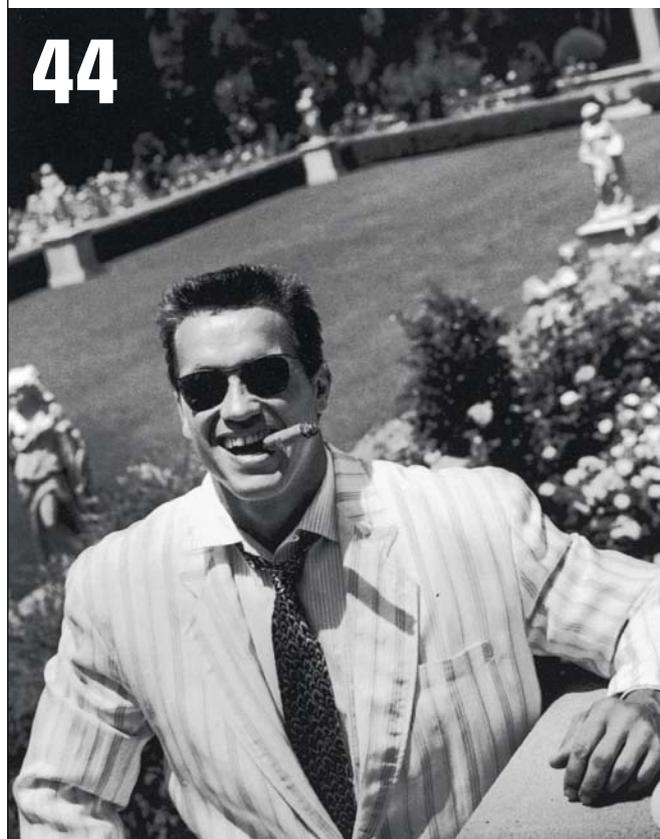
42



COLUMNS

- 36 NAME OF THE GAME**
Meet the Sims
- 37 PULP AND PAPER**
September's harvest of new books
- 38 LINER NOTES**
Recordable vinyl: Is the next step forward really a leap back?
- 40 BIT STREAMING**
Movie gossip Canadian style

44



MAGmovie

a quick survey of movies about the journalism industry shows a gaping void. While there have been plenty of good flicks inspired by the newspaper biz — *Citizen Kane* and *All the Presidents Men* among them, and many more about broadcast journalism, like *Network*, *Broadcast News* and *The Insider*, there have been few good films about magazines. That seems strange since magazine articles often require writers to immerse themselves in strange worlds for months at a time. You'd think that would spawn a great screenplay every now and then.

Well, if the buzz surrounding director Cameron Crowe's largely autobiographical *Almost Famous* is accurate, the magazine industry may be in for one of its first gems. The movie (which premieres at the Toronto International Film Festival) takes place in the Seventies and tells the story of William, a teen music junkie who goes on tour with an up-and-coming band and writes about them for *Rolling Stone*. For "Getting Almost Famous," page 26, Stephen Schaefer talked to Billy Crudup, who plays the band's "guitar god," about how he got the plum part originally slated for Brad Pitt.

Speaking of the Toronto International Film Festival, on page 16 we give you a rundown of the movies to watch for at this year's event. And if you don't live in the Toronto area, don't worry. Most of these films are already attached to major distributors so will be landing at a theatre near you within the next few months.

You might not know the name "Hallie Kate Eisenberg" but you'd recognize her pudgy little face. And the sight of that face may make you develop a mysterious craving for a refreshing cola beverage. That's because eight-year-old Hallie is best-known as the demanding tot from the Pepsi commercials. But she's also carving out a niche as a respectable young actress. For "Beautiful Girl," page 19, Sean Daly visited Hallie on the set of her most recent film, *Beautiful*.

When you're not at the movies this month, you'll probably be glued to your TV watching the Olympics. So, in honour of the Summer Games, we asked writer Michael Leo to give us an overview of how the most magnificent of all sporting events has been portrayed on the big screen. In "Olympian Efforts," page 20, he finds that when you cross movies with the Olympics, the results often contain more cheese than gold.

Keeping with the sporting mood, Denzel Washington's latest, *Remember the Titans*,

has him playing a 1970s football coach in a true story about the effects of forced integration on a high school football-obsessed community. In "Leveling the Playing Field," page 24, Washington talks about why this role seemed so familiar to him.

— Marni Weisz

Ooops!

In the July issue of *Famous* we incorrectly identified *The Five Senses* as the Genie winner for Best Motion Picture of 1999. Although the film's director, Jeremy Podeswa, won for Achievement in Direction, director István Szabó's *Sunshine* (produced by Robert Lantos and Andras Hamori) took home the prize for Best Motion Picture. We apologize for the error.

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PUBLISHER
SALAH BACHIR

EDITOR
MARNI WEISZ

ART DIRECTOR
VADIM MOSCOTIN

CONTRIBUTORS
SEAN DALY, TRENT ERNST,
SUSAN GRANGER, ELLEN HIMELFARB,
MICHAEL LEO, DAN LIEBMAN,
LEZLIE LOWE, MARK MAGEE, MARC SALTZMAN,
STEPHEN SCHAEFER, JENNIFER WALKER

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ANTON KIM (ext. 238)
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WESTERN OFFICE
604.904.8622

WESTERN SALES MANAGER
DIANE RAJH

SPECIAL THANKS

JOHN BAILEY, ROGER HARRIS,
CARLA HORWITZ, ROB JOHN,
STUART POLLOCK, CATHY PROWSE,
DAVID RUSK, LAURIE ZABORSKI

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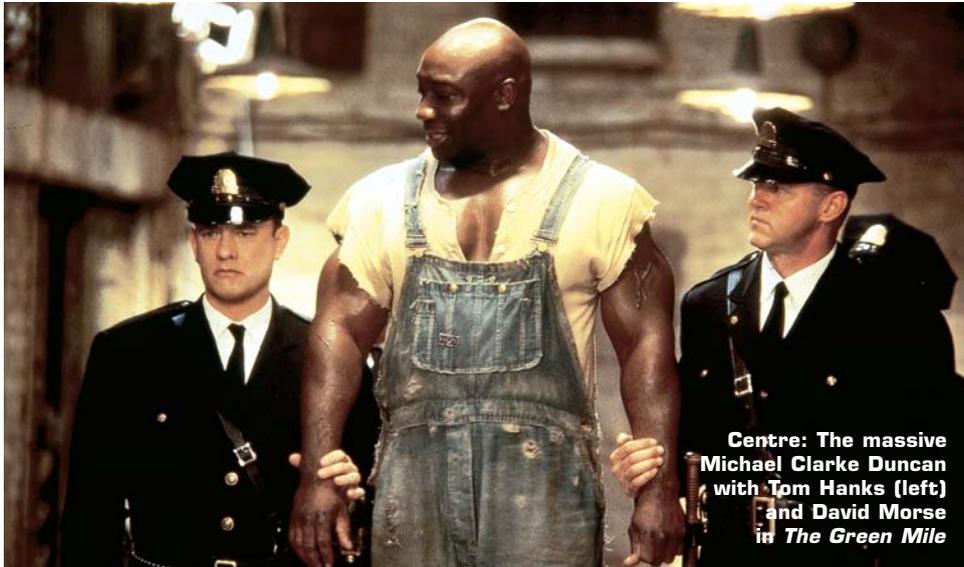
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COMING SOON

letters

T O T H E E D I T O R



Centre: The massive Michael Clarke Duncan with Tom Hanks (left) and David Morse in *The Green Mile*

ACCOLADES FROM OUR AUDIENCE

Just wanted to compliment you on *Famous*. As a frequent moviegoer, and a radio journalist for more than 30 years, I long ago gave up reading the give-away mags in theatre lobbies. But you seem to have succeeded where others have failed. I find your approach to be fresh and honest and well worth the time it takes to read. Keep up the good work.

Roger Currie — Kenora, Ont.

A lot of people take the time to complain, and I'm one of them. But I just thought it would be nice to say how much I enjoy the new *Famous* theatres. I love the movies. I go once a week, and when any kids' movies come out, I take my kids to see them. Your food is great! The seats are really comfortable! Myself and my family always have a great time when we go out to the movies!

Michelle Meadus — Caledon, Ont.

ANGRY ABOUT PSYCHO

I will NEVER watch the movie called *American Psycho* and I will swear to that on 10,000 stacks of bibles! Why? Because you had the objectivity to mention that Paul Bernardo was inspired by the novel that was the basis for this "flick." I fully admire your journalistic integrity for reporting that. The public had a right to know. I don't know one single Canadian who does not have a dark perception of that idiot. Please keep up the excellent work!

Fred T. Perel — Ottawa, Ont.

ONE BIG BOOK

Your recent note about the upcoming movies based on the *Lord of the Rings* by J.R.R. Tolkien perpetuates the common fallacy that Tolkien's epic masterpiece is a "trilogy." A trilogy is a series of three separate, but related books. (For example, any three of C.S. Lewis's 11 *Narnia* books would constitute a trilogy.) *LOTR* is not a trilogy! It is a single book with a beginning, a middle and an end. None of the three parts stands alone as a self-contained entity. Indeed, *LOTR* was originally published under three separate covers (over Tolkien's objections) only because his publisher feared that the size and expense of a 1,200-plus page book would scare off potential purchasers.

John Arkelian — Oshawa, Ont.

REEVES REBUTTAL

My husband and I went to see *Mission: Impossible-2* tonight. Upon leaving the theatre, I picked up a copy of your August 2000 *Famous* magazine. When I arrived home, I sat down with my cup of tea and began to look at your magazine. When I got to page 46, I did a double take!! You have printed a nude picture of Keanu Reeves, showing his pubic hair. I am not a prude but really now, it is quite unacceptable to put a picture like that in an entertainment magazine that children of all ages pick up at the theatre! WHAT WERE YOU THINKING!!

Gail Segal — Gloucester, Ont.

When my 14-year-old son, myself and a friend were at your Sarnia theatre to see *What Lies Beneath*, my son picked up a copy of your August 2000 issue. On page 46 ("10 Stars Talk About Their Passionate Pursuits"), there is a rather explicit picture of Keanu Reeves, apparently toweling off after a swim. Now, I can appreciate Keanu's looks, but this picture goes way too far for a publication that is available free of charge, and that children are able to pick up quite easily. My son is a teenager, but had he been younger, and innocently picked up your magazine looking for movie information, I would have been quite upset to discover that photography like this was in it.

Ms. J. Ward — Corunna, Ont.

LOOKING FOR INFO

I am writing this short note to say that your magazine is great. It is very informative and colourful. I sometimes send a copy to overseas friends and family. But I have a question about actor Michael Clarke Duncan who was in *The Green Mile*. What other work has he done? And how big is he? Keep up the fantastic work!

R.M.G. Youngson — Scarborough, Ont.

Michael Clarke Duncan has appeared in Bulworth (1998), Armageddon (1998), A Night at the Roxbury (1998), Breakfast of Champions (1999) and The Whole Nine Yards (2000). He stands a respectable six feet five inches tall.

Kudos on your article on celebrities and the internet. Is there an official site for my favourite actress, Winona Ryder? I always pick up your mag whenever I am in the theatre, and I must say it is very good. I hope you all keep up the great job.

Sam Kullab — Toronto, Ont.

There doesn't seem to be an official site for Ms. Ryder, but you should check out www.celebsites.com, where you can find links to 42 different sites dedicated to Noni. They offer pictures, wallpaper, bios and filmographies.

Famous welcomes your comments.

Address them to: **Letters to the Editor, Famous magazine, 1314 Britannia Rd. E., Mississauga, Ontario, L4W 1C8; or fax us at 905.564.3398; or drop us an email at famous@interlog.com. Letters may be edited for length and clarity. Please include your full name, city of residence and a contact number (email or phone).**

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IN THEATRES SOON

CATCH BAIT, WATCH THE WATCHER OR TAKE A TRIP WITH NURSE BETTY



Renée Zellweger's Betty with her cardboard cutout of Dr. Ravell (Greg Kinnear) in *Nurse Betty*

Art of War (August 25)

Who's In It? Wesley Snipes, Donald Sutherland, Anne Archer

Who Directed? Christian Duguay (*The Assignment*)

What's It About? Snipes plays a secret agent who is forced to go underground after being accused of killing a Chinese ambassador. But when terrorists threaten the United Nations he has to come out of hiding to take care of them.



Wesley Snipes in *Art of War*

About Adam (August 25)

Who's In It? Stuart Townsend, Kate Hudson

Who Directed? Gerard Stembridge (*Guiltrip*)

What's It About? A waitress named Lucy (Hudson) finally meets a guy she thinks she can call her own — Adam (Townsend) is handsome, charming and full of surprises. Everyone thinks she's made a great catch...until he proceeds to seduce her two sisters, and even her brother.

The Crew (August 25)

Who's In It? Richard Dreyfuss, Burt Reynolds, Dan Hedaya

Who Directed? Michael Dinner (*Heaven Help Us*)

What's It About? The residents (Dreyfuss, Hedaya, Reynolds) at the ratty old Raj Mahal seniors home along trendy South Beach, Miami, revolt when they learn of plans to turn their home-sweet-home into an upscale residence with rents to match. But their seemingly simple scheme to save the Raj goes awry when a paranoid drug lord becomes involved.

Bring It On (August 25)

Who's In It? Kirsten Dunst, Gabrielle Union, Jesse Bradford

Who Directed? Peyton Reed (*The Love Bug*)

What's It About? Dunst plays the All-American captain of her high school's cheerleading squad. Everything seems wonderful until she realizes that her predecessor had been stealing cheer-

leading routines from their rival squad, and now that squad wants to even the score.

Highlander: Endgame (September 1)

Who's In It? Adrian Paul, Christopher Lambert

Who Directed? Douglas Aarniokoski (debut)

What's It About? A band of swashbuckling immortals roam the earth in this fourth installment of the *Highlander* series.

Whipped (September 1)

Who's In It? Amanda Peet, Brian Van Holt, Jonathan Abrahams

Who Directed? Peter M. Cohen (debut)

What's It About? A group of studly college buddies, who think they're God's gift to women, swap detailed stories about their conquests at the local diner...that is, until the fateful weekend when they discover they have all fallen in love with the same woman (Peet).

The Watcher (September 8)

Who's In It? Keanu Reeves, James Spader

Who Directed? Joe Charbanic (debut)

What's It About? A psychopathic serial killer (Reeves) takes pleasure in taunting the FBI agent (Spader) who's spent eight years trying to catch him. The only thing is, the FBI agent has now retired. Will the killer be able to lure him back into their cat-and-mouse game?

The Way of the Gun (September 8)

Who's In It? Ryan Phillippe, Benicio Del Toro, Juliette Lewis

Who Directed? Christopher McQuarrie (debut)

What's It About? Lewis plays a surrogate mother about to have a baby for a wealthy couple. But then a pair of criminals (Del Toro and Phillippe) get the bright idea to kidnap the expectant mom and hold her (and the unborn baby) for ransom.

Nurse Betty (September 8)

Who's In It? Renée Zellweger, Morgan Freeman, Chris Rock, Greg Kinnear

Who Directed? Neil LaBute (*Your Friends & Neighbors*)

What's It About? Betty (Zellweger) is a small-town waitress who watches the soaps and thinks Dr. David Ravell (Kinnear) is speaking directly to her — especially when he says things like, "I know there's someone special out there for me." Then, one day, her deadbeat husband comes home with a couple of shady associates (Freeman and Rock). Things go terribly wrong and they kill him, so Betty takes off in his Buick LeSabre in search of her true love, Dr. Ravell. But the two killers are hot on the trail of their crime's only witness. ►►

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UNIVERSAL
USA
FILMS

Bait (September 15)

►► **Who's In It?** Jamie Foxx, David Morse, Robert Pastorelli
Who Directed? Antoine Fuqua (*The Replacement Killers*)

What's It About? Alvin Sanders (Foxx) is a petty criminal who is thrown in jail for stealing prawns — that's right, those things that look like shrimp, only bigger. Inside the slammer he meets John Jaster (Pastorelli) who's in for pulling off a daring gold heist. When Alvin is released, Jaster gives him a coded message to give to his wife. But U.S. Treasury investigator Clenteen (Morse) thinks that code will lead to the gold so, unbeknownst to Sanders, slaps a tracking device on him.

Chain of Fools (September 15)

Who's In It? Steve Zahn, Salma Hayek
Who Directed? Patrick Von Krusenstjerna and Pontus Löwenhielm (debut)
What's It About? A barber (Zahn) finds himself in the middle of a strange chain of events that involves the attempted theft of rare ancient coins, and then finds himself falling in love with the detective investigating (Hayek).

Birthday Girl (September 15)

Who's In It? Nicole Kidman, Ben Chaplin
Who Directed? Jez Butterworth (*Mojo*)
What's It About? When an English bank manager (Chaplin) orders a mail-order Russian bride (Kidman) over the internet, he gets more than he bargained for. His new love may have a dangerous side, which becomes all the more evident when a couple of her Russian cousins arrive.

Beautiful (September 15)

Who's In It? Minnie Driver, Hallie Kate Eisenberg, Joey Lauren Adams
Who Directed? Sally Field (debut)
What's It About? A young woman (Driver) who grew up in a dismal household finds an escape in beauty pageants. Against all odds she maneuvers her way up the pageant ladder toward the title of "Miss America Miss". It's quite a feat since she doesn't get support from anyone but her best friend, Ruby (Adams), and Ruby's daughter, Vanessa (Eisenberg). **See Hallie Kate Eisenberg interview, page 19.**

Almost Famous (September 15)

Who's In It? Patrick Fugit, Jason Lee, Billy Crudup
Who Directed? Cameron Crowe (*Jerry Maguire*)
What's It About? In this loosely autobiographical take on director Cameron Crowe's early years, William (Fugit), a teenaged music junkie/writer gets the opportunity of a lifetime when *Rolling Stone* magazine sends him on tour with an up-and-coming band called Stillwater. Jason Lee (*Dogma*) plays the band's lead singer and Billy

Crudup (*Without Limits*) plays its guitar god. **See Billy Crudup interview, page 26.**

Duets (September 15)

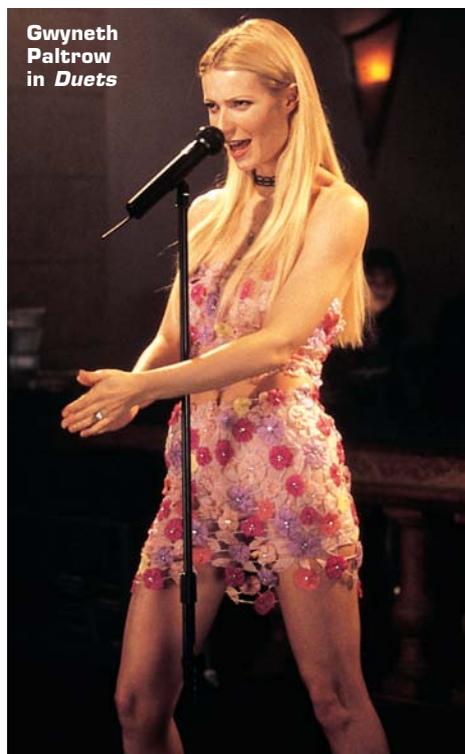
Who's In It? Gwyneth Paltrow, Scott Speedman
Who Directed? Bruce Paltrow (*A Little Sex*)
What's It About? A handful of karaoke hustlers travel across the U.S. competing in karaoke contests that all lead to the championship sing-off in Omaha. Word is, Gwyneth's character will be singing a bunch of Paula Abdul songs.

Urban Legends: The Final Cut

(September 24)
Who's In It? Joey Lawrence, Jenny Morrison, Anthony Anderson
Who Directed? John Ottman (debut)
What's It About? This sequel to 1998's *Urban Legend* follows a film student's struggle to complete her thesis film on urban legends, which becomes even more difficult when her crew members start dropping like flies. Joey Lawrence (yes, *Blossom*'s Joey Russo) co-stars in this Toronto-filmed flick.

Remember the Titans (September 29)

Who's In It? Denzel Washington, Will Patton
Who Directed? Boaz Yakin (*Fresh*)
What's It About? Based on a true story, *Remember the Titans* tells of two high school football coaches — one black and one white — in Virginia, circa 1971. When the local school



board is forced to integrate an all-black school and an all-white school, the question becomes: Which man will get to lead the team? Determined to work together, the two coaches teach the community a lesson about overcoming prejudice and intolerance. **See Denzel Washington interview, page 24.**

Blow Dry (September 29)

Who's In It? Alan Rickman, Natasha Richardson, Rachel Griffiths
Who Directed? Paddy Breathnach (*I Went Down*)
What's It About? Two beauty salons in a small English town become locked in a battle to win the nation's hairdressing competition. On one side there's an old-fashioned hairdresser (Rickman), and on the other side there's his ex-wife (Richardson) and her lesbian life partner (Griffiths).

Ring of Fire (September 29)

Who's In It? Kiefer Sutherland, Marcus Thomas, Daryl Hannah
Who Directed? Xavier Koller (*Journey of Hope*)
What's It About? Set against the backdrop of a rodeo circuit, a couple of brothers are torn apart when one brother (Thomas), a bull rider, falls in love with the woman (Hannah) his rodeo clown brother (Sutherland) has always had a thing for.

Impostor (October 6)

Who's In It? Gary Sinise, Madeleine Stowe, Vincent D'Onofrio
Who Directed? Gary Fleder (*Kiss the Girls*)
What's It About? Based on a short story by Philip K. Dick (*Blade Runner*, *Total Recall*), this sci-fi thriller follows an engineer (Sinise) who creates a superweapon to be used in a war against aliens. But then his fellow humans begin to suspect he's an alien himself.

Meet the Parents (October 6)

Who's In It? Robert De Niro, Ben Stiller, Teri Polo
Who Directed? Jay Roach (*Mystery, Alaska*)
Story: Greg Focker (Stiller) has met the girl of his dreams and they're getting married. But then he goes to meet her parents, and everything that can go wrong, does. De Niro plays the girl's intimidating father.

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

check www.famousplayers.com for showtimes and locations

Some pets deserve a little more respect than others.



BEST IN SHOW

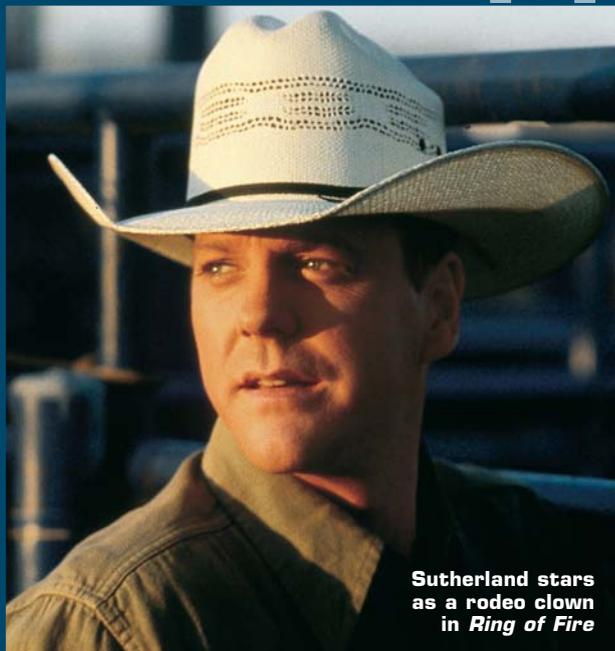
A comedy from the director of *Waiting for Guffman*.

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Coming Soon - Exclusive Toronto Engagement

RING OF FIRE • BIRTHDAY GIRL • ALMO



Sutherland stars as a rodeo clown in *Ring of Fire*

KIEFER SUTHERLAND

Now appearing in... *Ring of Fire*, a cowboy drama that also stars Marcus Thomas and Daryl Hannah and was directed by Xavier Koller (*Squanto: A Warrior's Tale*). Sutherland plays a rodeo clown named Hank, whose brother Ely (Thomas) is determined to become the next star on the bullriding circuit. The brothers' relationship becomes strained when Ely falls in love with the woman (Hannah) Hank loves.

Bio bits: Born December 21, 1966, in London, England to Canadians, actor Donald Sutherland and actress Shirley Douglas. Kiefer's parents divorced when he was only four years old and he and his twin sister, Rachel, lived with their mother in Toronto. When he was 14, Kiefer got the urge to join the family business after seeing his mother appear in a stage production of *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?* So, he enrolled in theatre workshops and soon landed a small role in the movie *Max Dugan Returns* (1983) which starred his dad. He dropped out of high school and devoted himself to acting full-time, much to his parents' dismay. A year later, he won the lead in the Canadian drama *Bay Boy*, opposite Liv Ullmann. When the drama won critical acclaim, Sutherland needed no further encouragement to pack his bags and head for New York. After a year of unemployment, he packed up and moved to L.A., where he had better luck. A role in the Steven Spielberg TV series *Amazing Stories* helped him land the part

of bully Ace Merrill in the hit film *Stand By Me* (1986). In 1987, he met actress Camelia Kath on the set of the movie *The Killing Time*, and a year later they were married. Kath was 14 years older than Sutherland and brought an 11-year-old daughter from a previous relationship to the marriage. Soon, the couple welcomed another daughter, Sarah Jude. Sutherland was enjoying a growing film career (with a penchant for playing the bad guy) but his off-screen partying had begun to destroy his marriage. Sutherland and Kath divorced in 1990, but he quickly rebounded with a whirlwind romance with his *Flatliners* (1990) co-star, Julia Roberts. Their relation-

ship became fodder for the tabloids, but the press went crazy when Roberts called off their June 14, 1991 wedding and hopped a plane to Ireland with Sutherland's best friend, actor Jason Patric. It was widely reported that Sutherland's straying (with a go-go dancer) and his hard partying were behind Roberts' decision. In 1996, he fell for, and eventually married, fellow Canadian Kelly Winn. Unfortunately, that marriage came to an end after only three years.

Sample roles: Wendell Goddard in *Woman Wanted* (1999), Freddie Cobb in *A Time to Kill* (1996), Sonny in *The Cowboy Way* (1994), Jeff in *The Vanishing* (1993), Athos in *The Three Musketeers* (1993), Lt. Jonathan Kendrick in *A Few Good Men* (1992), Tad Aligash in *Bright Lights, Big City* (1988), Doc Scurlock in *Young Guns* (1988), David in *The Lost Boys* (1987), Ace Merrill in *Stand By Me* (1986), Donald Campbell in *The Bay Boy* (1984)

Interesting tidbits: His grandfather was the former Saskatchewan premier Tommy Douglas. ● He attended St. Andrew's College in Aurora, Ontario for two years before being expelled for shaving his head.

On his relationship with Julia Roberts: "We really loved each other very much. The hell period came after we had broken up and I watched the press have a go at me and have a go at her — and to a large degree, I think we asked for it." — *Mr. Showbiz*, 1997

NICOLE KIDMAN

Now appearing in... *Birthday Girl*, a romantic comedy directed by Jez Butterworth (*Mojo*). Kidman stars as a Russian mail-order bride who is ordered over the internet by an English banker (Ben Chaplin). Then her two cousins come to visit and Chaplin's character discovers his new bride may not be what she seems.

Bio bits: Born Nicole Mary Kidman on June 20, 1967, in Honolulu, Hawaii. Kidman's family moved briefly to Washington, D.C., and then permanently to Australia when she was four years old. Her parents (father Antony is a biochemist and mother Janelle is a nursing instructor) were social activists who encouraged their daughters to follow suit. When Kidman's feminist mother refused to let her play with a Barbie, Nicole showed her resourceful streak, and stole one instead. At a very young age she became obsessed with ballet and the performing arts and began an exhaustive schedule of dance, drama and mime. It was through this outlet that the 17-year-old Nicole was able to deal with the news that her mother had breast cancer. She dropped out of high school to devote herself to both film and her family. Her mother eventually recovered and Kidman went on to



Kidman plays a mail-order bride in *Birthday Girl*

aring in...

ST FAMOUS

By Jennifer Walker

become a film and TV star in Australia. But it was her role in 1989's *Dead Calm* that got Hollywood's attention and had producers and actors, including her future husband Tom Cruise, asking to work with her. Kidman starred with Cruise in *Days of Thunder* (1990) where they fell in lust — then love. They married in a top-secret ceremony on Christmas Eve 1990. The couple have two adopted children, seven-year-old Isabella and five-year-old Connor, and divide their time between homes in L.A. and Australia. Kidman's career didn't really take off in Hollywood until she won the role of an adulterous, husband-murdering, ladder-climbing weather girl in director Gus Van Sant's *To Die For* (1995). She raised eyebrows again when she and Cruise starred in their third film together, last year's *Eyes Wide Shut*. Then she took a role in *The Blue Room*, a play on the London stage, which required her to appear naked in one dimly lit scene. She won raves for that performance — and for her incredible 5' 10" body.

Sample roles: Alice Harford in *Eyes Wide Shut* (1999), Gillian Owens in *Practical Magic* (1998), Isabel Archer in *Portrait of a Lady* (1996), Suzanne Stone Maretto in *To Die For* (1995), Dr. Chase Meridian in *Batman Forever* (1995), Gail Jones in *My Life* (1993), Shannon Christie in *Far and Away* (1992), Drew Preston in *Billy Bathgate* (1991), Dr. Claire Lewicki in *Days of Thunder* (1990), Rae Ingram in *Dead Calm* (1989)

Love life: Rumored to have dated Australian actor Russell Crowe while they were both still living in Australia. • Married Tom Cruise on December 24, 1990 in Telluride, Colorado.

Awards: Won both the Theatre World award (1999) and the Special London Evening Standard award (1998) for her role in *The Blue Room*; won the Golden Globe for Best Actress in a Musical or Comedy for her role in *To Die For* (1995). In both 1996 and 1999, she was chosen by *People* magazine as one of the 50 Most Beautiful People in the World.

On her timid side: "Though I'm more out of my shell now, I can still get very, very shy. It used to tick Tom off. We'd go to a dinner party and I'd hardly speak. He didn't understand it." — *Rolling Stone*, July 1999

Hoffman as *Creem* critic Lester Bangs in *Almost Famous*



PHILIP SEYMOUR HOFFMAN

Now appearing in... *Almost Famous*, director Cameron Crowe's loosely autobiographical story of a 15-year-old boy (Patrick Fugit) who is given the opportunity to go on the road with the fictional band Stillwater and write an article about the experience. Hoffman plays the teen's mentor, real-life rock critic Lester Bangs. The film also stars Frances McDormand, Billy Crudup, Kate Hudson, Jason Lee, Anna Paquin and Fairuza Balk.

Bio bits: Born July 23, 1967, in Fairport, New York, to Gordon and Marilyn Hoffman who divorced in 1976. Philip, along with his sisters, Jill and Emily, and his brother, Gordy, was raised in upstate New York by his lawyer mother. He was more interested in sports growing up than he was in the arts, and excelled at wrestling and baseball. But repeated injuries left him unable to play and wondering what to do to fill his time. It didn't take long for him to discover that the drama department was where a certain popular and beautiful senior was auditioning for the high school play, *The Crucible*. Hoffman followed, and a new love of theatre began. He went on to graduate from the prestigious New York Tisch School of the Arts and took a series of typical struggling-actor jobs to make ends meet. It was while working in a deli that his big break came when he was cast as a prep school brat in the Chris O'Donnell/Al Pacino hit *Scent of a Woman*. He nabbed small roles in big budget pictures like

Twister (1996) and the critical smash *Boogie Nights* (1997), and in smaller indie favourites like *Happiness* (1998) and *Next Stop Wonderland* (1998). Hoffman will soon make his debut as a romantic leading man in the drama *State and Main* opposite Alec Baldwin.

Sample roles: Freddie Miles in *The Talented Mr. Ripley* (1999), Phil Parma in *Magnolia* (1999), Rusty Zimmerman in *Flawless* (1999), Mitch in *Patch Adams* (1998), Allen in *Happiness* (1998), Brandt in *The Big Lebowski* (1998), Sean in *Next Stop Wonderland* (1998), Scotty in *Boogie Nights* (1997), Dusty in *Twister* (1996), Gary in *When a Man Loves a Woman* (1994), Buck in *The Yearling* (1994), George Willis, Jr. in *Scent of a Woman* (1992)

Awards: Nominated for the Screen Actors Guild Award for his portrayal of Rusty in *Flawless* (1999); won Best Supporting Actor from the National Board of Review for his roles in *Magnolia* and *The Talented Mr. Ripley* (1999)

Interesting tidbits: He started using his middle name, Seymour, because there was another actor in the union with the name Philip Hoffman. • Calls Tom Cruise, his co-star from *Magnolia*, a "cheerleader for the human race" and "the nicest guy he's ever met."

On his craft: "Acting's not easy, ever. When you start thinking it's easy, all of a sudden, you suck." — *True Grit*, February 2000

THE FILM THAT WINS THE PEOPLE'S CHOICE AWARD AT THE TORONTO INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL OFTEN GOES ON TO BE A WINNER AT THE BOX OFFICE AND THE ACADEMY AWARDS. SO THE QUESTION IS...

What will be this year's AMERICAN BEAUTY?

By Marni Weisz

The audiences at the Toronto International Film Festival have a keen eye for picking a winner. Last year, *American Beauty* won their People's Choice Award, then walked away with five Oscars. The year before it was *Life is Beautiful*, which eventually took home three Academy Awards.

Who will it be this year? Well, DreamWorks, the studio behind *American Beauty*, seems to be in good shape with two leading contenders — *Almost Famous*, the semi-autobiographical story from director Cameron Crowe, and the appropriately named *The Contender* — a political drama starring Gary Oldman, Jeff Bridges and Joan Allen. Fox is putting their money on a military drama called *Men of Honor* which combines the big-name star power of Robert De Niro and Cuba Gooding, Jr. with a true story of overcoming racial barriers. On a lighter note, Warner Brothers is touting their quirky new comedy *Best in Show*, starring and directed by the super-talented Christopher Guest. Then there's our Great Canadian Hope — *Stardom* from *Jesus of Montreal* director Denys Arcand. Although *Stardom* (which was produced by Alliance Atlantis and will open the festival on September 7) won't likely end up with *American Beauty*-type hardware, it could follow in the footsteps of Atom Egoyan's *The Sweet Hereafter*, which was nominated for Best Director and Best Adapted Screenplay at the 1998 Oscars.

On the other hand, a smaller independent film may leap out of the woodwork to claim this year's prize. It's happened before — like when Michael Moore's *Roger and Me* won in 1989. The question would then become: Can it get the backing of a major distributor to push it into the worldwide spotlight, and perhaps even Oscar's lair? Not that we're saying the Oscars are the be-all-and-end-all of a filmmaker's aspirations. Truth is, no matter how well the Toronto International Film Festival's movies do at that notorious glitzorama next March, we're in for nine days of magnificent movies this month. Here's a closer look at the films we think have a good chance to be your favourite at this year's festival.



Cuba Gooding, Jr. prepares to dive in *Men of Honor*

MEN OF HONOR

Stars: Robert De Niro, Cuba Gooding, Jr., Hal Holbrook, David Keith, Joshua Leonard, Michael Rapaport, Charlize Theron, Powers Boothe, David Conrad, Aunjanne Ellis, Joshua Feinman, Ryan Honey, Scott Kraft, Holt McCallany, Theo Nicholas Pagones, Dennis Troutman
Director: George Tillman, Jr. (*Soul Food*, *Scenes for the Soul*)

Writer: Scott Marshall Smith

Producer: Robert Teitel

Cuba Gooding, Jr. plays Carl Brashear, the Navy's first African-American Master Diver. But, not surprisingly, things don't go smoothly for this groundbreaker. Robert De Niro plays Billy Sunday, a rebellious senior officer and Master Diver who, at first, opposes Brashear. But in the end he helps Carl overcome a devastating injury, fight racism and battle bureaucracy to make military history. This film was executive produced by Bill Cosby, who has filled that role in the past with movies like *Leonard Part 6* and *I Spy Returns*, as well as his TV series, *The Cosby Show*. Cuba Gooding, Jr. is expected to be among the scads of celebrities attending the festival this year. And, word is, Fox thinks this movie will be one of their best bets come Oscar time.

THE CONTENDER

Stars: Gary Oldman, Joan Allen, Jeff Bridges, Christian Slater, Sam Elliott, Mariel Hemingway, Mike Binder, William L. Petersen, Saul Rubinek, Kristen Shaw

Director: Rod Lurie (*Deterrence*, *4 Second Delay*)

Writer: Rod Lurie

Producers: Gary Oldman, Marc Frydman, Scott Shiffman

You just knew the time was ripe for a really good film about political scandal in the White House. With the line between politics and celebrity blurring (evident in magazines like *George* and TV shows like NBC's *The West Wing*), Washington is no longer only interesting

The Toronto International Film Festival

takes place from September 7th to the 16th.

For more info check out their website at
www.bell.ca/filmfest



Jessica Paré
amid the media
in *Stardom*

for old fogies who get up on Sunday mornings to watch *Meet the Press*. Sex, power and clashing personalities all play a large part in this story of Senator Laine Hanson (Joan Allen) who, after the Vice President dies in office, is nominated by the President (Jeff Bridges) to take over the vacant position. Problem is, a lot of people aren't ready for a female Vice President and when a possible sex scandal involving Hanson breaks, her detractors go to work trying to destroy her. Foremost among those detractors is a Republican congressman played by Gary Oldman, whose performance is already generating Oscar buzz. For a long time this movie didn't have a distributor, despite its big name stars. But, in May, Stephen Spielberg's DreamWorks decided this one was a winner and made it the first film it has picked up that was already produced. The folks at DreamWorks aren't the only ones who think *The Contender* has the potential to be the next *American Beauty*. The oft-curmudgeonly Harry Knowles, chief architect of the online movie gossip site, Ain't-It-Cool-News (www.aint-it-cool-news.com), has seen the film and writes, "The best thing I can say about this film would not scratch the surface of how good I felt it was."

STARDOM

Stars: Jessica Paré, Dan Aykroyd, Charles Berling, Robert Lepage, Camillia Rutherford, Thomas Gibson, Frank Langella

Director: Denys Arcand (*Jesus of Montreal, Love and Human Remains*)

Writers: Denys Arcand, Jacob Potashnik

Produced by: Robert Lantos, Denise Robert

Life may end up imitating art with this one. You see, Arcand's comic drama tells the story of

Tina, a gorgeous young woman who is "discovered" and turned into a supermodel at the expense of her privacy, personal life and, perhaps, her sanity. Well, the woman Arcand cast as Tina is Jessica Paré, a gorgeous, unknown actress who is making her feature film debut. If *Stardom* turns out to be a hit, Paré's fate may mimic that of the character she portrays. Tina's rise to the top of the catwalk world is seen through the eyes of hordes of television cameras that follow her every move. Two of the more familiar faces in *Stardom* are Dan Aykroyd, who plays a power-hungry restaurateur who is seduced by Tina's charms, and Thomas Gibson, best-known as Greg from TV's *Dharma and Greg*, who plays Tina's powerful agent. Gibson previously teamed up with Arcand for the director's very disturbing 1993 film, *Love and Human Remains*. *Stardom* was the official closing film at Cannes last May and will be the official opening film of the Toronto festival.

ALMOST FAMOUS

Stars: Patrick Fugit, Billy Crudup, Jason Lee, Philip Seymour Hoffman, Fairuza Balk, Zoey Deschanel, Jimmy Fallon, Kate Hudson, Frances McDormand, Anna Paquin, Bijou Phillips, Noah Taylor, John Fedevich, Mark Kozelek

Director: Cameron Crowe (*Singles, Say Anything, Jerry Maguire*)

Writers: Cameron Crowe

Producers: Ian Bryce, Cameron Crowe

Set in 1973, this largely-autobiographical film is based on filmmaker/journalist Crowe's days as a teen music fan whose dreams came true when he was given the opportunity to go on the road with rock bands and write about them for *Rolling Stone*. In real life, Crowe followed a number of different ►►

Other Film Fest Flicks to Watch For

BILLY ELLIOT

Director: Stephen Daldry

Stars: Jamie Bell, Julie Walters

In the mid-Eighties, a young boy (Bell) is torn between his love of dance and his disintegrating family. Could an audition for the Royal Ballet School be his way out?

CROUCHING TIGER, HIDDEN DRAGON

Director: Ang Lee

Stars: Chow Yun-Fat, Michelle Yeoh

A man named Li (Yun-Fat) is embittered by the mysterious disappearance of his magical jade sword, and by his unrequited pursuit of a woman named Yu (Yeoh).

YOU CAN COUNT ON ME

Director: Ken Lonergan

Stars: Matthew Broderick, Laura Linney, Mark Ruffalo

A young mother (Linney) who's having an affair with her boss (Broderick) sees her life turned upside down when her wild brother (Ruffalo) shows up unexpectedly.

SONGCATCHER

Director: Maggie Greenwald

Stars: Janet McTeer, Aidan Quinn

In 1907, a musicologist (McTeer) moves to Appalachia where she tries to preserve the Scottish and Irish folk songs that have been passed down from generation to generation. Quinn plays her love interest, Tom.

LUZHIN DEFENCE

Director: Marleen Gorris

Stars: John Turturro, Emily Watson

Two worlds collide when an eccentric genius (Turturro) falls in love with a strong-willed society beauty (Watson).

SHADOW MAGIC

Director: Ann Hu

Stars: Jarred Harris, Xia Yu

In 1902, a Beijing photographer named Liu gets caught up in a new-fangled technology called Shadow Magic (a crude early movie theatre) brought to his region by a foreigner.

AFTER THE STORM

Director: Guy Ferland

Stars: Armand Assante, Benjamin Bratt

When a luxury yacht goes down in a violent storm, the race is on to salvage the bounty. The fierce competition causes two couples to commit the ultimate betrayal.

▶▶ bands, including Led Zeppelin. In the movie, those bands have been blended into one archetypal Seventies rock outfit called Stillwater, whose members include the phenomenal Jason Lee, whose offbeat appeal has made him a favourite in films like *Dogma*, *Chasing Amy* and *Mumford*, and Billy Crudup, who received raves for his work in this summer's *Jesus' Son*. The role of the Crowe character (William) went to 17-year-old newcomer Patrick Fugit, who reportedly turns in an inspired performance. Like last year's *American Beauty*, this film's theatrical release will follow hot on the heels of its world premiere at the festival. It's slated to open in limited theatres across the country on September 15, and will expand into wide release at the end of the month and in early October. For more on *Almost Famous*, check out our Billy Crudup interview on page 26.

BEST IN SHOW

Stars: Christopher Guest, Eugene Levy, Michael McKean, Catherine O'Hara, Parker Posey, Fred Willard, Lewis Arquette, Bob Balaban, Ed Begley, Jr., Jennifer Coolidge, Patrick Cranshaw, John Michael Higgins, Michael Hitchcock
Director: Christopher Guest (*Almost Heroes*, *Waiting for Guffman*)



Christopher Guest smooches with his pooch in *Best in Show*

Writers: Christopher Guest, Eugene Levy
Producers: Karen Murphy, Gordon Mark

From the bizarre brain that brought you *Waiting for Guffman*, the hilarious story of a small-town theatre company mounting a mid-dling play, comes this story of a handful of dog

owners who each hope their pooch has what it takes to be victorious at the Mayflower Kennel Club Dog Show. That bizarre brain, of course, belongs to Christopher Guest, former *Saturday Night Live* cast member and probably best-known as Nigel Tufnel from Rob Reiner's monumental mockumentary, *This is Spinal Tap*. With *Guffman*, Guest showed he has a flare for revealing the intrinsic humour in pedestrian, middle-American, anti-heroic characters, and Warner Brothers is hoping he can do it again with this film about "dog people." There's the yuppie couple, Hamilton (Michael Hitchcock) and Meg (Parker Posey), with their neurotic Weimaraner; mild-mannered menswear salesman Gerry (Eugene Levy) and his wife Cookie (Catherine O'Hara) with their Norwich Terrier named Champion-Thank-You-Neil-Sedaka; and fly-fishing shop owner Hubert (Guest) and his Bloodhound, Hubert, among others. You'll notice that many of the same names from *Guffman* (Hitchcock, Willard, O'Hara, Posey, Levy, Balaban) are back for this one, so expect the same wacky *SCTV* meets *SNL* meets your-third-cousins-once-removed-who-live-in-a-midwestern-bungalow feel. The movie should make its way to a theatre near you sometime in early October. **F**

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Hallie (left) gets some on-set advice from director Sally Field

Beautiful girl

By Sean Daly

A few months ago, Hallie Kate Eisenberg was dashing around the L.A. set of her latest movie, *Beautiful*, trying to stump cast and crew members with an "Adult IQ Test." The questions (like "What's the smallest cell in the human body?" and "How many troops were killed at Gettysburg?") all came out of her daily on-set tutoring sessions. For Hallie, who celebrated her eighth birthday in August, schooling is just one more part of a busy day-to-day schedule, which often combines filming, interviews and countless personal appearances.

But if you ask the pint-sized actress — known best, until now, from her popular "Joy of Cola" Pepsi commercials — she'll tell you she actually loves the non-stop activity and attention. In fact, as Hallie returns to her trailer around 3 p.m., dripping with white paint she stepped in somewhere near the craft service table, she shows no signs of tiring. Instead, the energetic third grader is anxious to show off the latest additions to her collection of American Girl dolls and talk about the wide array of projects which have helped her become one of Hollywood's fastest rising and most recognizable young stars.

Although she first earned fame pitching soft drinks, the New Jersey native is also a celebrity guest-correspondent for *Entertainment Tonight* and a veteran film actress who has appeared

You know her as the loud-mouthed Pepsi kid, but **Hallie Kate Eisenberg** is more than just a soft drink seller. The 8-year-old proves she can really act in the new Minnie Driver movie, *Beautiful*

alongside some pretty big names: Russell Crowe (*The Insider*), Jamie Lee Curtis (*Nicholas' Gift*) and Robin Williams (*Bicentennial Man*).

In *Beautiful*, which marks the feature film directing debut of Oscar winner Sally Field, Hallie moves into her biggest role yet, receiving second billing to Minnie Driver in this tale of a young woman's quest to become "Miss America Miss".

"I have a special relationship with Minnie's character," Hallie says, careful not to give away too much of the plot. "Her character, Mona, doesn't want to accept that my character [Vanessa] is her daughter."

If there was ever any doubt that show business was in Hallie's blood, it was dashed five years ago, when, just barely out of diapers, she composed her first short play, *Lies and Ashes*. "It's about a mother who smokes and a little girl," she explains. "The girl comes home from school and finds a hidden ash tray under the table. The next day the girl comes home from school smoking. And her mom says, 'What are you doing?' And the girl asks, 'Well you can do it, why can't I?' So the mom goes, 'No more lies,' and the girl goes, 'No more ashes.' And then they hug."

"She's so bright. She was doing fourth grade work in kindergarten," recalls brother Jesse, 16, who recently starred in the Fox television series *Get Real*. Not surprisingly, Hallie credits much of her early success to the support of her family — especially Jesse, who was present when she was "discovered" in 1995. "He was switching agents, so I went along for the ride," she recalls. "They said, 'Can we send you out on things?' So we said, 'Sure!' I think I was about four."

It wasn't long before she had landed her first major studio film, 1998's *Paulie*, about a girl and her pet parrot. It remains a favourite in the family section of video stores everywhere. She went on to appear in several made-for-TV movies, including *Swing Vote* (1999) and *Blue Moon* (1999) before being cast as Russell Crowe's daughter in last year's Oscar-nominated *The Insider*. A few months later, she was back on screen, this time opposite Robin Williams, in the futuristic tale, *Bicentennial Man*. She recently completed a made-for-TV remake of *The Miracle Worker* in Toronto, and will soon start work on a baseball movie called *A Little Inside*, in which she will play the daughter of a major leaguer.

Hallie's future plans are still up in the air, according to her parents, Amy, a retired clown, and Barry, a former hospital administrator. (The two now manage their children's careers). The couple recently accompanied their daughter to the Nickelodeon Kids Choice Awards in L.A., where she filed reports for *Entertainment Tonight*. Hallie's work with the program — including many celebrity interviews — has not gone overlooked by her fellow reporters. "I think she's wonderful," raves Mark Steines, the show's senior correspondent and part-time anchor. "She remembers all of her lines and she doesn't get real nervous. She's a good little actress. She also really knows how to play to the camera."

Steines said the biggest contribution Hallie makes to her *E.T.* segments is in the creative responses she is able to generate from some of Hollywood's biggest stars. "She can ask one of the most obscure, off-the-mark questions," he explained, "but because it's coming from her, this cute little adorable girl, they come up with some of the most unique answers. And you get to see a completely different side of the celebrity."

And what's Hallie's best *E.T.* moment? It would have to be that interview with Sporty Spice, of her favourite band, The Spice Girls. "She recognized me," Hallie says, blushing. "She said 'You're the little girl from the Pepsi commercials. I love you.'"

"They got me on tape saying 'This is the best moment of my life!'"

Sean Daly is editor of Showtime Magazine in L.A.



OLYMPIAN EFFORTS

In honour of the Games of the 27th Olympiad, we asked writer/broadcaster Michael Leo to examine how the Olympics have been portrayed on screen

Seen a good movie about the Olympics lately? After all, the big screen and the Olympic Games seem to be a natural fit. Both enjoy blockbuster status with a worldwide audience, and both often give us the same basic scenario: Someone wins, someone loses and everyone gets excited. You'd think the silver screen would just be a bigger, better canvas for the biggest and best sports event of all.

But the Olympics rarely appear in films and, when they do, it's often only in a supporting or

cameo capacity. Maybe some form of competitive spirit has kept the two from joining forces more frequently. Or maybe their differences simply outweigh their similarities. After all, you don't watch a sports event the same way you watch a flick. In a movie it's business as usual when the hero wins, but no one can predict who'll be the hero in an Olympic competition. This built-in suspense is one of the event's most magnetic qualities, it's the thing that gets viewers high on an overdose of tension. As critic Andrew Sarris once said: "Sports are

now. Movies are then. Sports are news. Movies are fables."

So where does that leave us in terms of cinematic depictions of the Olympics? With a little bit of everything, as it turns out, from the great to the gimpy. But if you're suffering from Olympic fever, even the worst among them can make for a fun, cheesy diversion. In honour of the Sydney Summer Games, here's a completely subjective, inarguably personal rundown of the good, the bad and the awful among Olympics-based films.

GOLD Olympiad

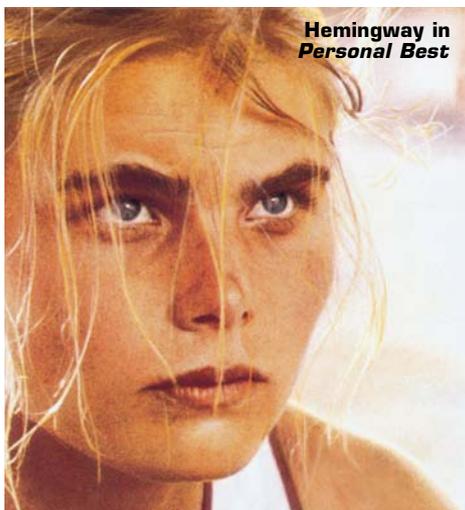
1938/Germany/director: Leni Riefenstahl

The most accomplished and controversial of sports documentaries, Riefenstahl's masterwork is a near-hallucinatory record of the 1936 Olympic Games. It was commissioned by Adolf Hitler as a cinematic salute to Aryan prowess, and The Third Reich's long shadow does, indeed, hover forebodingly as Hitler is seen observing the games, his face tightening when German athletes miss their moment. To this day, *Olympiad* is a source of political and artistic debate. Riefenstahl's critics point out the fascistic elements of her lionization of the sports arena's high and mighty, while her defenders (including John Grierson, grandee of the 1930s documentary movement) have praised her for transcending Nazi propaganda. Riefenstahl has maintained that aesthetics were her only motivation. Explaining her approach, she stated, "The form must excite the content and give it shape." That it does, and whatever else this film may be, it is a triumph of photography and editing, vision and organization — a truly obsessive record of physical supremacy. Divers fly with preternatural grace into waiting waters, vaulters float over the bar, sprinters (among them Jesse Owens) and marathon runners (with special emphasis on Korea's Kitei Son) move with powerhouse energy. Riefenstahl gives us athletic competition as a heroic, often erotic, hypercharged aesthetic experience. At over three hours, *Olympiad* is often shown in two parts — *Festival Of The Nation* and *Festival Of Beauty*.

Personal Best

1982/U.S./director: Robert Towne

Robert Towne's unabashed tribute to the beauty of women's bodies during athletic pursuit stars Mariel Hemingway and Patrice Donnelly



as track performers who become lovers and later compete against each other in the Olympic trials. This is one of the most sensuous of sports movies, with the sexual and athletic elements braiding together in a believable, unforced manner. Laconically scripted by Towne, the film has an open, unaffected atmosphere. There's also a sense of quiet excitement and empathy running through the conflict between athletic rivalry and sexual loyalty. This movie was jeered at in some quarters, probably because it took women seriously as athletes — and showed that girls could do without boys in horizontal sports as well.

SILVER

Downhill Racer

1969/U.S./director: Michael Ritchie

Robert Redford plays a rare unsympathetic role as a cynical skier out to win at the Winter Olympics. The competition footage is truly dazzling, presenting an almost spell-casting sense of risk, which makes sense of Redford's determination to conquer the sport. Shot in a semi-documentary style, the movie is smartly low key, enough so to be fairly intriguing (if also a little too spare for its own good and never really gripping outside the ski footage). There's also a memorable scene of erotic discord when an angry Redford, in the front seat of his car with neglectful sex partner Camilla Sparv, puts a stop to her prattling by hitting the horn violently — one of the few moments off the slopes when the restrained surface of this film gets busted open.

Million Dollar Legs

1932/U.S./director: Edward Cline

W.C. Fields plays the President of Klopstokia, a mythical country causing havoc at the 1932 Olympics. This one dates back to before *The Flood*, but who cares? The jokes pop like rude little fireworks, cross-eyed Ben Turpin gives his peepers a fine workout as "Mysterious Man," Jack Oakie gives every scene he's in a healthy shot of good cheer, drippy-voiced Lyda Roberti sings "It's Terrific," and, of course, there's Fields the Magnificent. All these years later, his gliding, well-oiled snarl is still a marvel of misanthropy.

Without Limits

1998/U.S./director: Robert Towne

This commendable, intimately scaled look at the brief life of charismatic and contentious Olympic runner Steve Prefontaine follows the athlete as he sets seven American records before suffering defeat at the 1972 Olympics. Ultimately, it amounts to a study of the passion for excellence shared by the hotheaded athlete (Billy Crudup, very believable) and his trainer, legendary coach



Bill Bowerman (Donald Sutherland, whose passion for acting excellence is more than evident). The script was written by Towne and Kenny Moore, Prefontaine's fellow Olympian and chum.

BRONZE

International Velvet

1978/U.K./director: Bryan Forbes

This belated sequel to 1944's *National Velvet* has Nanette Newman playing a middle-aged Velvet Brown (the role established by Elizabeth Taylor) and Tatum O'Neal playing her American niece who becomes an Olympic equestrian. The result is pleasantly pastoral, with a likable cast and swank cinematography. But O'Neal isn't especially sympathetic and, overall, it's more sentimental than emotional, never hitting the wonderstruck heights of the original.

Walk, Don't Run

1965/U.S./director: Charles Walters

This remake of the overrated 1943 comedy *The More The Merrier* (which starred Charles Coburn, Jean Arthur and Joel McCrea) is set in Tokyo during the Olympics, with Cary Grant (in his last film) choreographing a romance between English rose Samantha Eggar and Olympic walker Jim Hutton. Like its predecessor, this one's success depends largely on the charm of its three stars.

Wee Geordie

1955/U.K./director: Frank Launder

A fond favourite of its time, *Wee Geordie* stars Bill Travers as a behemoth athlete hurling hammers in the Melbourne Olympics. This one is too mild to live up to its "classic" reputation, but it has a certain poky friendliness. That wizard of suffering, Alistair Sim, plays a Scottish laird and brings this light fare a welcome whiff of pained comic finesse.

ALUMINUM Chariots Of Fire

1982/U.K./director: Hugh Hudson

A slickly inspirational bio-pic dramatizing the glory achieved by runners Harold Abrahams (Ben Cross) and Eric Liddell (Ian Charleson), both of whom ran for Britain at the 1924 Olympics in Paris. Though it's generally well acted, there's so little characterization that the



Ian Charlson (front) and Ben Cross compete in *Chariots of Fire*

►► movie is simply carried by its genteel, mechanical, uplifting quality. (It plays like a long, polite commercial for physical fitness.) But keep in mind this is a completely subjective list. After all, this puffy piffle was sufficiently safe and unadventurous to win Hollywood's conservative approval and snare the Academy Award for Best Picture. Oscars also went to Colin Welland for Best Original Screenplay, Mila Canonero for Best Costumes and composer Vangelis Papathanassiou for his score.

Visions Of Eight

1973/U.S./directors: Milos Forman, Kon Ichikawa, Claude Lelouch, Juri Ozerov, Arthur Penn, Michael Pfleghar, John Schlesinger, Mai Zetterling

As the official film of the 1972 Olympics, *Visions of Eight* depicts the games as interpreted by eight major directors. The intention was to create a visionary mosaic with an international perspective, but the results are erratic, diffuse, and forgettable. Franco Zeffereilli had been scheduled to shoot a section, but backed out claiming the games had become a platform for political protest. He proved to be more accurate than he could have possibly wished — 11 members of the Israeli team were killed that year after being taken hostage by Palestinian guerillas.

TIN FOIL

The Bob Mathias Story

1954/U.S./director: Francis D. Lyon

Decathlon champion Bob Mathias plays himself in an anemic sports bio...but great athletes seldom make great actors. Wife Melba Mathias, also an amateur thespian, plays herself, which was taking marital fidelity a little far. Dull as dandruff, with plentiful stock sports footage.

Goldengirl

1979/U.S./director: Joseph Sargent

A track star played by Susan Anton undergoes conditioning experiments to ensure her victory at the 1980 Olympics, making her the curviest guinea pig in scientist Curt Jurgens' lab. This one plays like *Frankenstein* with boobs instead of bolts.

FLY PAPER

It Happened In Athens

1962/U.S./director: Andrew Marton

Jayne Mansfield wiggles and sighs as a celebrated Greek actress (say what?) who vows to marry the runner triumphant at the 1896 Olympics. Bob Mathias takes another run at acting, this time as a coach. From the tattered, twitching end of Mansfield's career.

The Wicked Dreams Of Paula Schultz

1968/U.S./director: George Marshall

A loud, cheesy comedy with schnitzel starlet Elke Sommer as an East German athlete who pole vaults over the Berlin Wall when she's had enough of her unflattering Olympic uniform and the lecherous embraces of Werner Klemperer, who you'll remember as Colonel Klink from TV's *Hogan's Heroes*. Lumpy misadventures ensue with other cast members from that World War II sitcom, including Hogan himself, Bob Crane. The pillaging of that Sixties series' cast was a shameless attempt to woo followers of the series into movie theatres.

Michael Leo is a radio broadcaster and TV writer who has spent the past five years writing scripts for TVOntario's acclaimed Saturday Night at the Movies. He has also written about pop culture for numerous publications, including The Globe and Mail, Cinema Canada and BoxOffice. (F)

famous trivia

- 1** Marisa Tomei stars in this month's crime-thriller *The Watcher*. For which mob-comedy did the spunky brunette win a Best Supporting Actress Oscar in 1993?
- 2** Warner Brothers is re-releasing the supernatural horror *The Exorcist* this month. In which year was the William Friedkin-directed classic first released — 1973, 1975 or 1978?
- 3** You can see Lara Flynn Boyle on the big screen in *Chain of Fools* this month, but she's best-known for a couple of TV roles — Helen Gamble on *The Practice* and a central character on David Lynch's *Twin Peaks*. Name that character.
- 4** Minnie Driver, star of *Beautiful*, was born in the U.K. But on which Caribbean island was she raised?
- 5** Which star of the new comedy *Nurse Betty* goes by the nickname Jelly?
- 6** Wesley Snipes plays a macho secret agent in *The Art of War*. But for which movie did he once don a dress and high heels?
- 7** Denzel Washington plays a football coach trying to overcome racial intolerance in *Remember the Titans*. But before he hit it big in movies he played a doctor on a hit 1980s TV show. Name it.

ANSWERS

- 1 My Cousin Vinny 2 1973 3 Donna
- 4 Barbados 5 Renée Zellweger
- 6 To Wong Foo, Thanks for Everything!
- Julie Newmar 7 St. Elsewhere



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LEVELING the playing field

DENZEL WASHINGTON PLAYS A FOOTBALL COACH MAKING STRIDES FOR RACIAL EQUALITY IN *REMEMBER THE TITANS*

By Stephen Schaefer

For Denzel Washington, there are three things that are mighty familiar about his role in *Remember the Titans*.

First, he's impersonating a real person once again. Washington received rave reviews (and earned an Oscar nomination for Best Actor) as long-imprisoned boxer Rubin "The Hurricane" Carter in Norman Jewison's *Hurricane* last year. He was also nominated for an Oscar in 1992 when he played Malcolm X in Spike Lee's film biography of the Sixties African-American militant. Then there was his portrayal of slain South African civil rights activist Steve Biko in Richard Attenborough's *Cry, Freedom* (1987) and his work as a member of the Civil War's only black regiment in Edward Zwick's *Glory* (1989), for which he won the Best Supporting Actor Oscar.

But those were all famous historical figures. For director Boaz Yakin's *Remember the Titans*, the 45-year-old had to capture Herman Boone,

a high school football coach who, in the early 1970s, fought racism and inspired everyone he met not with guns, explosions or under the glare of the nation's spotlight, but simply by personal example.

"It's a different responsibility, you know," Washington says of committing a real person to film. "A fear, sometimes. When we did *Malcolm X* we were under a lot of pressure from a lot of people who weren't afraid to tell us what they'd do to us [if we got it wrong]." Here, there's another kind of responsibility because, as heroic as Herman Boone was, he is virtually unknown to the general public. So whatever the filmmakers put up on the screen was destined to become his legacy.

The story is also familiar territory for Washington because, like *Malcolm X*, *Glory* and *Cry, Freedom*, *Remember the Titans* deals with one man's efforts to combat racism and ignorance. "It's about a high school in Virginia in 1971, a black school and a white school," Washington

explains. "The white coach of the white school is about to go into the Hall of Fame but because of affirmative action, they brought this black guy, Herman Boone, in to coach." In fact, the school board was required to completely integrate the two schools — meaning there could only be one head coach. They chose Boone. But instead of becoming bitter, the white coach, Bill Yoast (played by *Entrapment*'s Will Patton), teams up with Boone, and together the pair teach the whole community a lesson about overcoming fear and prejudice...and take the team to the State Championships.

"It's about who teaches you to hate," says Washington. "It's not about the guy though. It's really about the kids. I just make the big speeches."

The other reason Washington felt well-acquainted with this role is that he has something in common with Herman Boone. "I play a football coach in this, which is what I am in real life," Washington says simply. When he's not off making Oscar-winning films, he coaches his four children's various teams. There's 15-year-old David, 12-year-old Katia and the twins, nine-year-old Malcolm and Olivia. And one gets the feeling Washington is a pretty intense coach in real life, too. "Whenever my kids are playing — baseball and basketball and football — I tell them, 'We play hard, we play fair, we win.' Remember, Vince Lombardi said, 'Winning isn't everything, it's the only thing!'" **F**

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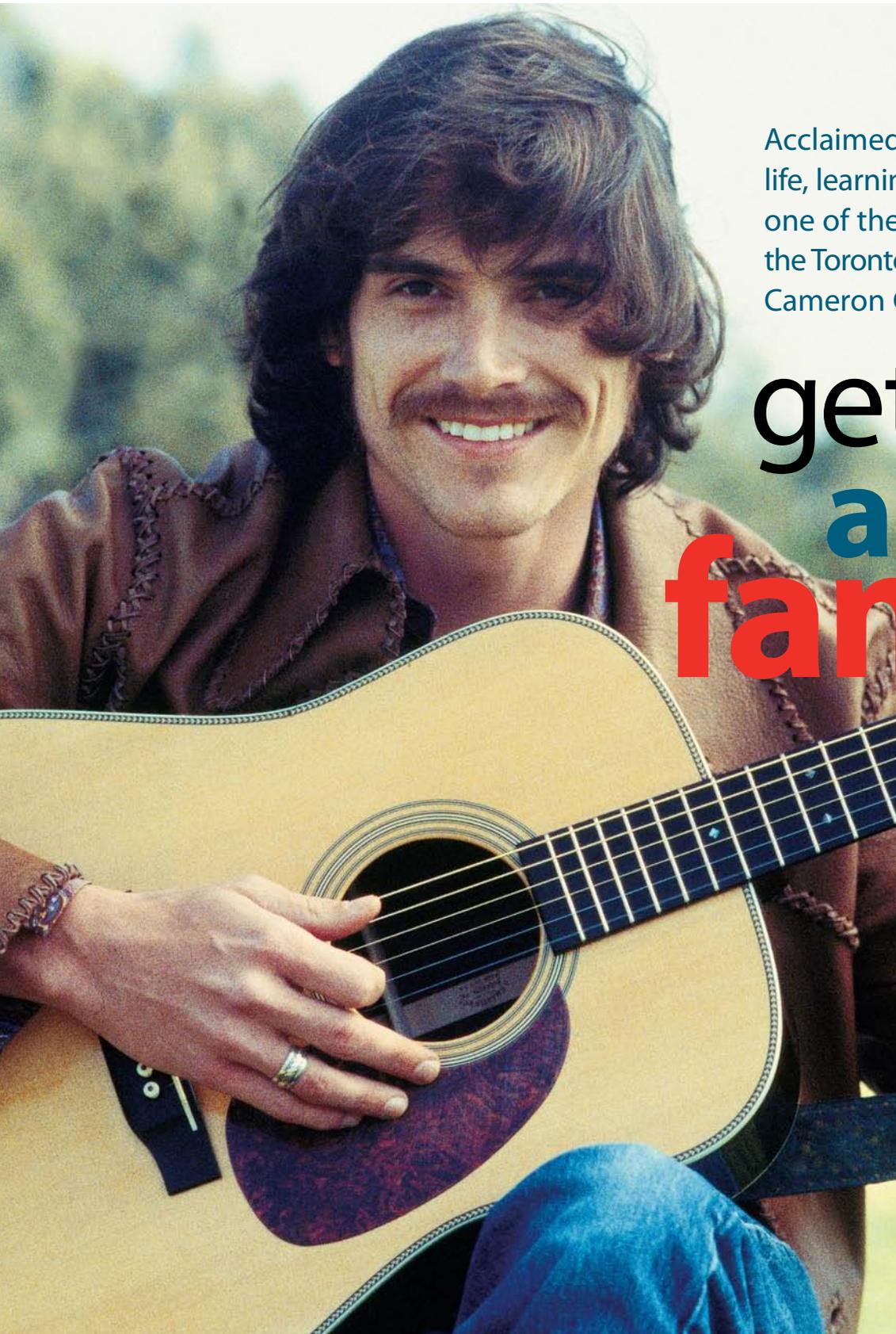
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Acclaimed actor **Billy Crudup** discusses life, learning to play guitar and his role in one of the most-anticipated movies of the Toronto International Film Festival — Cameron Crowe's *Almost Famous*.

getting almost famous

By Stephen Schaefer

When Billy Crudup strolls into a Soho restaurant, heads don't turn and patrons don't leave their tables to rush over for autographs. For Crudup, not being a Brad Pitt is actually fine, especially since he replaced Pitt in one of the year's most eagerly awaited films, *Almost Famous* — the first post-*Jerry Maguire* movie from writer-director Cameron Crowe. The film will premiere at the Toronto International Film Festival this month, and opens nationwide on September 15th.

The parallel between the film's title and Crudup's status as one of the best actors of his generation who has been "almost famous" for years is an amusing accident. Lean, with a ruddy complexion and black hair accentuated by alert eyes, the 32-year-old Crudup (pronounced Crew-dup) is, if not winning the fame game, at a personal peak.

"I don't feel frustrated I'm not a household name," Crudup says, sounding remarkably sincere for someone in a business where the size of your paycheck can often be boosted by the size of your fame. "I intend for people to see the movies or plays I do. That not many people

have is, of course, disappointing. But that I can a) work as an actor who is successful and b) that I can work on things I like, is a ridiculous privilege. The vast majority of actors are working at their craft so they can land a Doritos commercial. I feel quite content. I like the movies that I do."

Those movies include *Sleepers*, his 1996 debut in the company of Robert De Niro, Brad Pitt and Kevin Bacon; Pat O'Connor's *Inventing the Abbotts* (1997) with Liv Tyler; *Without Limits* (1998), which was produced by Tom Cruise and told the true story of Olympic runner Steve Prefontaine; Stephen Frears' *The Hi-Lo Country* (1998) with Woody Harrelson and Penelope Cruz; Keith Gordon's *Waking the Dead* (1999); and this past summer's tour de force *Jesus' Son*, where he played a dim but sweet heroin addict with an unprintable name.

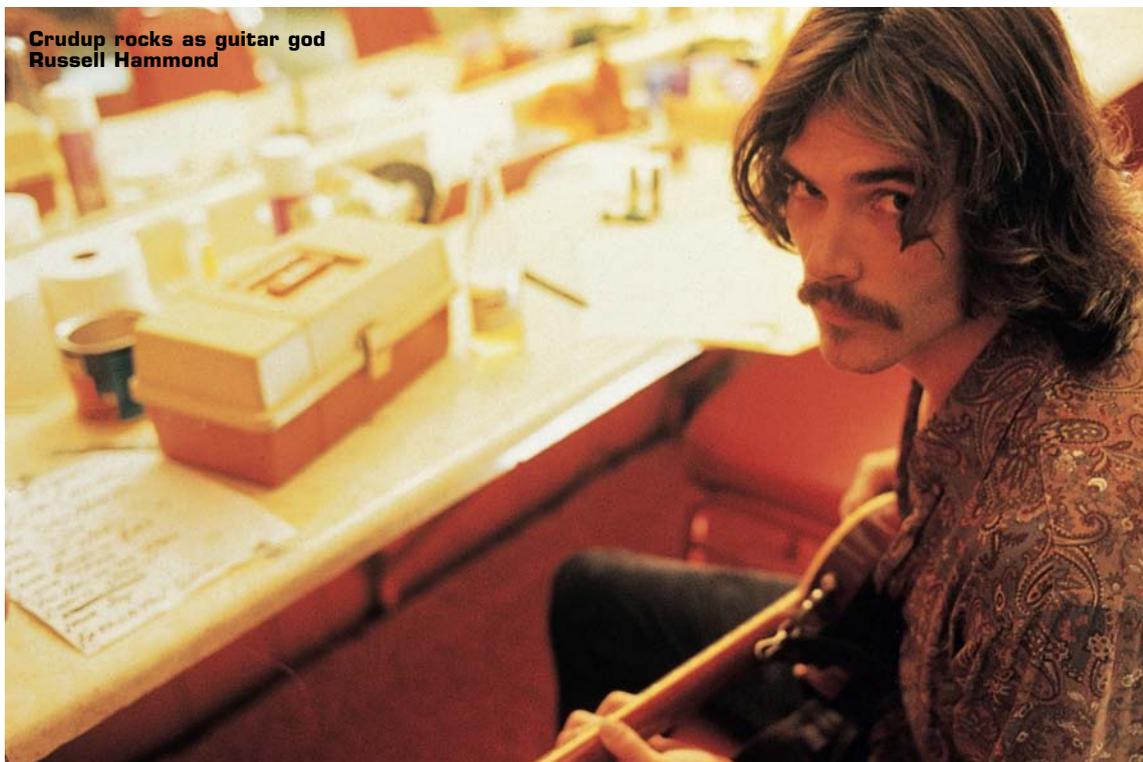
And now it's *Almost Famous* — Crowe's loosely autobiographical film set in the rock and roll milieu of the Seventies. Crudup plays Russell Hammond, the guitarist for a band called Stillwater — the subject of a *Rolling Stone* article being written by a teenaged music junkie named William (Patrick Fugit). If you haven't already caught on, William is really just a thinly veiled representation of Crowe at the start of his storied journalism career, which preceded his days in film.

"He comes from a unique family," Crudup says of the William character. "His mother has given him specific rules about life and those include that rock and roll is full of potheads living in a Valhalla of decadence. His sister, however, has turned him on to rock. He's bright, and a great writer, so he sends reviews of rock albums to Lester Bangs, the editor of *Creem* magazine. He even tracks Lester down and Lester says, 'Give me a review of Black Sabbath.' So he goes to San Diego and meets the opening act, a band from Troy, Michigan, called Stillwater, who are just becoming popular. Their sound is a little Led Zeppelin, a little Free and the Allman Brothers Band. They take the kid under their wing for the evening and he sends the review in to *Creem*. People from *Rolling Stone* read it and they send him on tour with the band."

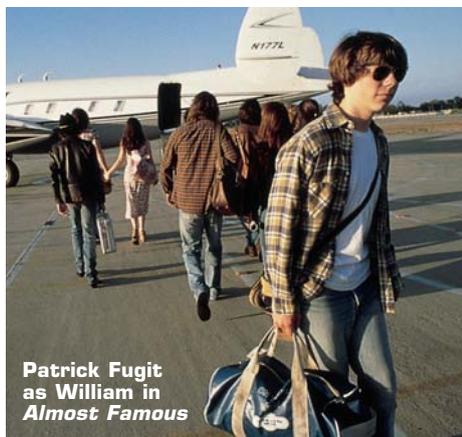
"I'm the lead guitarist for Stillwater," adds Crudup. Jason Lee (of *Chasing Amy*) plays the lead singer.

A stickler for investing his characters with real-life accuracy, Crudup took a six-week crash course to learn to play guitar. "I had played a little but I needed to learn a lot to play the way this guy did. It's like anything — I knew how to run because I played sports but I didn't know how to run like Steve Prefontaine, an Olympic track athlete."

Crudup rocks as guitar god Russell Hammond



"...ONE CRITIC SAID I WAS A 'PERPETUAL MOTION MONKEY,'" SAYS CRUDUP. "IF I BELIEVED THAT, I PROBABLY COULDN'T GO ON ACTING. SO WHEN SOMEONE SAYS SOMETHING GOOD, IT'S HARD TO TAKE, TOO!"



Patrick Fugit as William in *Almost Famous*

Peter Frampton, a Seventies rock star himself, was the key consultant, and Nancy Wilson of the beloved rock band Heart (who just happens to be the director's wife) wrote all the songs and lyrics with Crowe.

"It's like all of Crowe's movies — sweet and funny," Crudup says. "Patrick Fugit plays the kid and he's unbelievable. It's his story. It's also a love story, a coming of age story and, by and large, a story about music and its effect on our lives."

Crudup is being modest. Advance buzz says that while Fugit is a find, Crudup's outrageously funny scene tripping on acid and believing himself a "golden god" is a star-making moment. Also winning positive reviews are Kate Hudson (Goldie Hawn's daughter) as the most prominent of groupies, Oscar winner Frances McDormand as Fugit's very strict mother and Philip Seymour Hoffman as the *Creem* critic.

Crudup, like every young actor in town, was eager to be in a Crowe film, but *Almost Famous* was almost a miss for a while there. "I had met Cameron after *Without Limits* and we said, 'If something comes along, great.' Then Brad Pitt dropped out of this two months before it started. My agent, I guess, had been working behind my back and I got an audition. I did that for a couple of hours — and that was it."

Well, no it wasn't quite "it." Crudup screws up his face in mock fury: "Then he took two weeks before deciding."

You might think Crudup spent those two 

►► weeks relearning his guitar licks and generally getting up to speed musically in anticipation of being cast — but you'd be wrong. "I waited," Crudup says as he smiles, "because it's a bad idea to commit yourself to something you haven't gotten."

Born in Long Island's suburb of Manhasset but raised in Florida and Texas, Billy was, with his brothers Thomas and Brooks, a child of divorce. Always smaller than his classmates, the diminutive kid found the stage a natural place to shine — even if it was as Uncle Sam in an Independence Day school pageant at the tender age of seven. By the time he was enrolled at the University of North Carolina he knew he wanted to be an actor, and after graduation enrolled at New York University's famed Tisch School of the Arts where he received a masters degree and made his first feature, the rarely-seen, low-budget *Grind* (1997).

Now, as he sits in the Canteen restaurant with the sleeves of his white shirt rolled up, the collar opened wide and the cup of coffee he's ordered still untouched, Crudup reflects on a career that was focused on the theatre early on. He got his first batch of rave reviews for his

performance in a 1995 production of Tom Stoppard's play, *Arcadia*. Then in 1996 he made his Broadway debut in a revival of *Bus Stop*, which brought him not only more raves but a long-term relationship with leading lady Mary Louise Parker (*The Five Senses*). Soon after, he was cast in the big-budget *Sleepers*, and now, like Brad Pitt at the beginning of his rise to fame, Crudup gets

meaty roles in offbeat movies with the expectation that he will deliver a good performance and, just maybe, all by himself, turn the movie into a blockbuster, as Pitt did with *Legends of the Fall*.

Crudup exists in that peculiar Hollywood zone known as "hot," which means he has been anointed an up-and-coming star. But, to his credit, he has never deviated from the stance he took when it all started: He couldn't care less about fame. "I have yet to do a play or film about me," Crudup says. "I'm not so interested in myself being presented to the world."

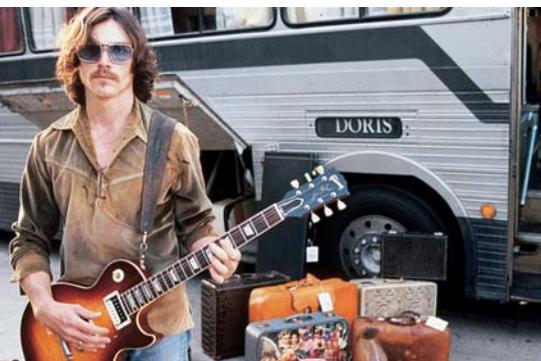
And he will always keep a jaundiced eye on both the hype and the reviews that surround anyone deemed "hot."

"When I did Marchbanks in Shaw's *Candida*, one critic said I was a 'perpetual motion monkey.' If I believed that, I probably couldn't go on acting. So when someone says something good, it's hard to take, too. Yet when you talk to someone after a play and see in their eyes they were affected by what you did, that's as close as I can come to being affected by someone else's opinion."

If Crudup could peer into a crystal ball and predict his own future, he might see himself primarily on stage. Despite the (comparatively) low pay and limited exposure, theatre remains a magnet for him. But regardless of whether he ends up on screen or stage, there's one wish he has for his audience.

"I hope each time someone sees me in something, they think that's the only part I can play," he says. "Because then they're ceasing to see me as an actor. They're too involved in the story." **E**

Stephen Schaefer is a freelance writer who covers the movies for a variety of publications including USA Today.



coming soon

Get Carter (October)

Stars: Sylvester Stallone, Michael Caine

Director: Stephen T. Kay

Story: In this remake of 1971's *Get Carter*, Sylvester Stallone plays the title role, a vicious hitman who returns home for his brother's funeral and finds himself investigating the events surrounding the death...and then seeking revenge. Michael Caine, who played Carter in the original, must approve of the redo because he has a role in the film.

Monkeybone (November)

Stars: Brendan Fraser, Dave Foley

Director: Henry Selick

Story: Fraser plays Stu Miley, the creator of the *Dark Town* comic book. After slipping into a coma, Miley "wakes up" in *Dark Town* and has just 12 hours to escape from this creepy dream world before Death will come knocking at his door. *Monkeybone*, one of his illustrated creations, might be the only one who can save him.

Charlie's Angels (November)

Stars: Drew Barrymore, Lucy Liu, Cameron Diaz

Director: Joseph McGinty Nichol

Story: In this big screen adaptation of the spandex-spangled Seventies series, the Angels (Barrymore, Liu and Diaz) use feminine charm and high-tech gadgets to figure out what's going on after a soon-to-be-billionaire is kidnapped from his office.

Enemy at the Gates (November)

Stars: Jude Law, Ed Harris

Director: Jean-Jacques Annaud

Story: Jude Law plays real-life Russian sniper Vassili Zaitsev, who is so good at picking off German soldiers that an expert Nazi sniper (Harris) is sent to take care of him. The two engage in a sniping duel to see who can put a bullet in whose head first.

Family Man (December)

Stars: Nicolas Cage, Tea Leoni, Don Cheadle

Director: Brett Ratner

Story: Ever wonder what would have happened if you had married your college sweetheart? Well, lonely investment banker Jack Campbell (Cage) gets to find out when he wakes up one day to find himself living the life he would have led if he'd married that girlfriend (Leoni).



Wes Craven Presents: Dracula 2000 (December)

Stars: Gerard Butler, Christopher Plummer

Director: Patrick Lussier

Story: Yes, that's right, even though this movie is called "Wes Craven Presents: *Dracula 2000*," the director of the *Scream* trilogy and *A Nightmare on Elm Street*, didn't direct it. He is merely the executive producer. Directing honours went to Patrick Lussier, a film editor making his debut at the helm. This modernization, based on Bram Stoker's classic fanged character, sees a London antiques dealer traveling to America to save his daughter from Dracula (Butler).

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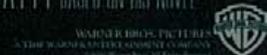


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FORD MAY RAID AGAIN, **CROWE** PONDER'S DIRECTION AND **MIRA** PLAYS THE PRINCESS

SORVINO ENJOYS HER INDEPENDENTS

Mira Sorvino, daughter of actor **Paul Sorvino**, seems to have decided she prefers offbeat indie films and movies with a message, to mainstream Hollywood blockbusters. The star of *Mighty Aphrodite* and *Summer of Sam* has signed on to two more intriguing projects. She will headline **Bernardo Bertolucci's** *The Triumph of Love*, an independent picture about a princess who assumes both male and female identities. She will also join **Steve Buscemi** (*Fargo*) and **Harvey Keitel** (*Reservoir Dogs*) in a Holocaust drama called *The Grey Zone*. The movie, which is based on a play by **Tim Blake**, focuses on Jews who were forced to work in the crematoria of Auschwitz.



Sorvino

MATT MATTERS

Hunky *Friends* star **Matt LeBlanc** hasn't had much luck with picking big screen projects. First there was the chimp-based comedy (and we use that word loosely) *Ed*, then it was the sci-fi bomb *Lost in Space*. He'll appear in the *Charlie's Angels* film next, but even the quality of that much-anticipated flick is a big question mark what with all the on-set bickering. Now LeBlanc has announced he will star in a little \$15-million (U.S.) independent comedy called *All the Queens Men*, slated to be shot in Hungary and Austria. He'll play the American leader of a rag-tag crew of British agents during World War II. Their mission? Infiltrate a female-run factory in Berlin (in disguise, of course) and bring back the decoding device that will win the war.

THE LAST CRUSADE, HUH?



Ford and Karen Allen in *Raiders of the Lost Ark*

Indiana Jones may get to crack his whip one more time. While promoting the supernatural thriller *What Lies Beneath*, **Harrison Ford** told the *Calgary Sun* that he would be "eager" to do a fourth indie movie, and that the character "deserves to be revisited." In fact, he said he'd like to see **Sean Connery**, who played his dad in the third Indiana Jones movie, *The Last*

Crusade, return as well. No word on whether they'll be trading their horses in for walkers. There are also rumours that **M. Night Shyamalan**, who wrote and directed last year's Oscar-nominated *The Sixth Sense*, is already working on a screenplay for the movie.

CROWE TAKES CHARGE

As if **Russell Crowe** hasn't been getting enough attention. Now comes word that the perfectionist actor may take on yet another challenging role — that of director for a religious mystery called *A Course in Miracles*. The star of *L.A. Confidential*, *Gladiator* and *The Insider* would also play the movie's central character — a Jesuit priest who has a crisis of faith after investigating supposed miracles. Crowe has been getting about \$15-mil (U.S.) per pic since his Oscar nomination for *The Insider*, so who knows how much will be tacked on to that if he steps behind the camera as well. Crowe and "special friend" **Meg Ryan** are currently finishing up work on *Proof of Life* about a hostage negotiator (Crowe) who falls in love with the wife (Ryan) of the man he's trying to save. It should be out this Christmas.



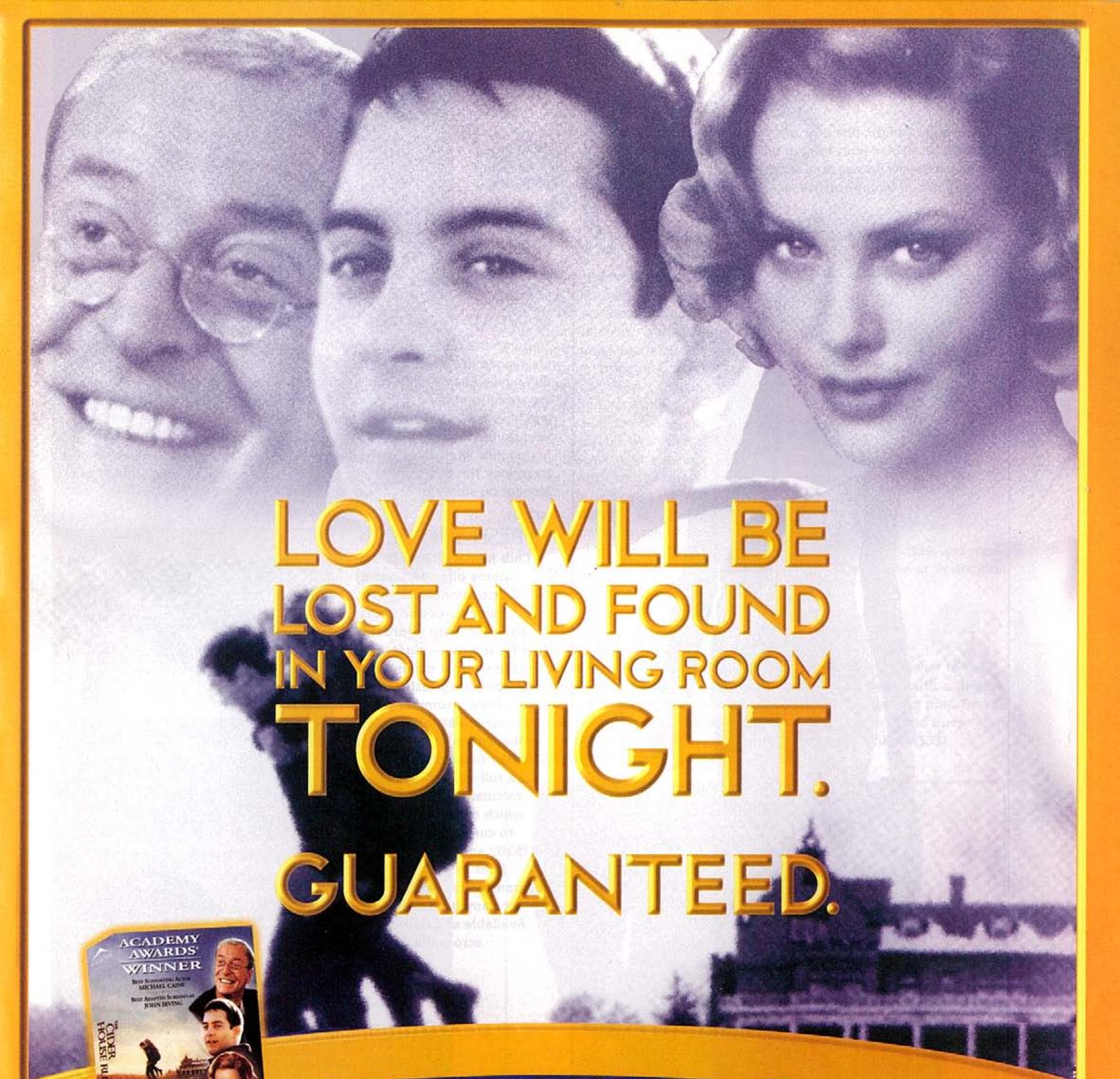
Crowe

JOHN HUGHES NEWS

Here's one from the "This Sounds Like A Really Bad Idea" file. Director **John Hughes** is reportedly considering doing a remake of his classic Eighties teen-angst comedy, *The Breakfast Club*. The original starred **Molly Ringwald**, **Judd Nelson**, **Anthony Michael Hall**, **Emilio Estevez** and **Ally Sheedy** as a mismatched group of high school students lumped together in a detention session. It was, perhaps, the best of Hughes' definitive Eighties films (which include *Pretty in Pink* and *Sixteen Candles*), so why would he ruin it with an update? You've got us. It's not like he needs the work. He has also signed on to write, direct and produce an as-yet untitled "modern-day Cinderella story" which will be set in his beloved Chicago. Although it doesn't have a name yet, that film is slated to begin shooting next Spring for release around Christmas 2001.

B R I E F L Y

Christopher Walken will star in an indie modernization of Shakespeare's *Macbeth*. The bloody tragedy will take place in a Seventies fast food joint. ■ If you haven't already heard, former **NYPD** heartthrob **Jimmy Smits** and Fifties horror star **Christopher Lee** are among the newest cast members to join **George Lucas' Star Wars: Episode Two**. ■ **Chelsea Clinton** wants to be an actress. And the 20-year-old Stanford student's first role may be in a **Drew Barrymore** film called *Donnie Darko*. **Chelsea's** boyfriend, actor **Jake Gyllenhaal**, has a part in the pic, and has apparently asked that Clinton be given one too.



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Style101

FUNKY NEW STUFF TO HELP YOU HEAD BACK TO CLASS WITH CLASS



By Ellen Himelfarb

◀ WRAP CITY

Step into the closet of any fashionista this season and you'll undoubtedly be enwrapped in the wrap. Whether it be floor-length coats that tie at the waist, fluffy three-quarter cardigans, or shirt-dresses cinched at the middle, designers are concentrating on easy, zipper-free garments that enhance cleavage and hips, as well as attitude. Designer Diane Von Furstenberg, the woman who started it all back in the Seventies, greets Fall with another relaunch of her popular wrap dress — this time in whimsical prints and contemporary trimmings. This one, from Mendocino, retails for \$485 and is available at all Mendocino stores in Toronto, or by calling 1.877.369.6363.

FRESH SUPPLIES ▶

Club Monaco's new Caban stores offer versions of popular CM clothing, homewares and accessories at more affordable price points — perfect for the student making due on the paltry cash earned from a summer job. A couple of their funkier back-to-school items for their first Fall season are a roll-up, solar-powered calculator in translucent, which is flexible enough to curl into a little tube (\$20); and a fold-up book light in black, silver or translucent, which will fit into any backpack (\$10). Available at Caban stores across the country.





◀ BEST SEAT IN THE HOUSE

Studying to be a farmer? Well, even if you're not, you still might prefer to perch on Ikea's Traktor stool, named after the rugged rural vehicle. Charmingly moulded from polypropylene and aluminum, the seat can be wheeled away from your desk for a much-needed study break. Vrrrrroooooom! In black only (\$60). Available at Ikea locations across Canada.

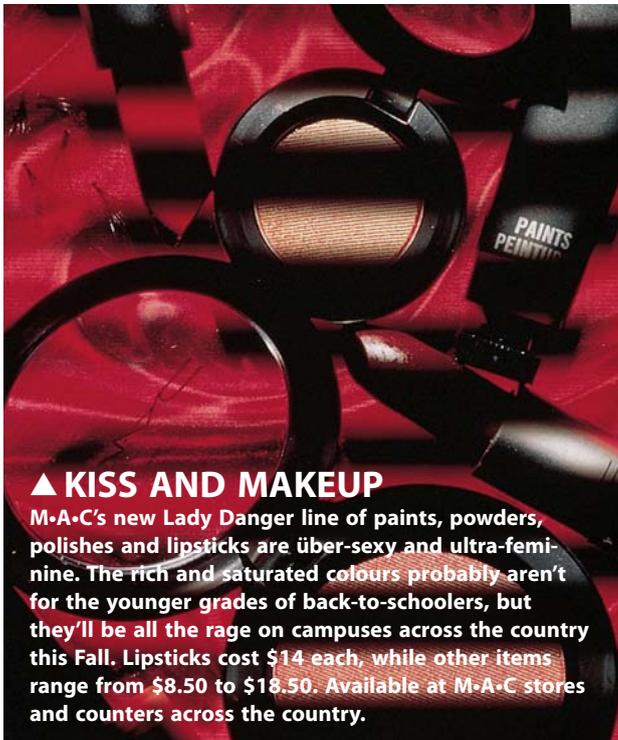
OLD SCHOOL ▶

Everything old is new again, and with cool metallics being hot for the season, the classic aluminum lunchbox and old-fashioned green thermos are prime for a comeback. The lunchbox's timeless shape, trendy aluminum body and nostalgia value are made all the more desirable by its deep base, which will hold a lot of Twinkies. Ditto for the thermos, which will also serve spectator parents at junior hockey games, gymnastics meets and swim lessons. The Miner's Lunchbox comes in small (\$39) and medium (\$42), while the thermos is one-size-fits-all (\$60). Available at Restoration Hardware in Toronto and Vancouver.



BAGGAGE CHECK ▼

Is it a purse, or a pack? The hybrid Campus Planner, little brother to the substantial Campus Knapsack, is made of lightweight nylon with a single chest strap, and is compact enough to cross over into evening play. That's not to say it can't manage bursting notebooks, bulky texts and busy schedules (note the handy mobile pocket). In Dark Midnight (\$33). Available at Roots stores across the country.



▲ KISS AND MAKEUP

M·A·C's new Lady Danger line of paints, powders, polishes and lipsticks are über-sexy and ultra-feminine. The rich and saturated colours probably aren't for the younger grades of back-to-schoolers, but they'll be all the rage on campuses across the country this Fall. Lipsticks cost \$14 each, while other items range from \$8.50 to \$18.50. Available at M·A·C stores and counters across the country.

AN ENGAGING SOUP

**PENELOPE ANN MILLER'S
BOYFRIEND POPS THE QUESTION
AFTER EATING GREEN GATES'
WILD RICE/WILD MUSHROOM BISQUE**

We're not saying it had anything to do with the soup...but when actress Penelope Ann Miller (*Awakenings*, *Carlito's Way*, *The Relic*) had the Manitoba Wild Rice/Wild Mushroom Bisque from Winnipeg's Green Gates Country House & Restaurant, she got engaged.

The 36-year-old actress was in town filming a romantic comedy called *A Woman's a Helluva Thing* with Scottish actor Angus MacFadyen when her assistant called Green Gates to make reservations for Penelope and her boyfriend. "So I set up a private area for them, and made it really nice and romantic," recalls general manager Richard Armstrong.

But that's not where the question was popped. After the meal, Penelope mentioned that they wanted to get away for a few days, and asked Armstrong about a resort called Clear Lake in the Riding Mountains. "They wanted to

know whether there was a place to buy wine up there and stuff to cook, and I said, 'Probably. But I don't really know what the quality would be. Why don't I pack you up a care package and then you'll have the best products and you won't have to worry about it.' So we packed up a whole whack of stuff and some re-heating instructions, and they were off."

That package included the bisque, beef tenderloin with a red wine veal *jus*, escargot with puff pastry in wild mushroom sauce and bruschetta with balsamic onions and feta cheese.

"Then when they came back they stopped at the restaurant to tell me they got engaged," says Armstrong. "They sat down and had some wine and a little more to eat. Then they called up some other people, invited them to come down and stayed for dinner that night."

After dinner the group rushed back to their hotel to watch a rough edit of *The Mary Kay Letourneau Story*, which had been couriered to Winnipeg. Miller played the title role in the TV-movie about the notorious Tacoma, Washington, teacher who had an affair with one of her students. Miller's next big screen release will be this Fall's psychological thriller *Along Came A Spider* with Morgan Freeman.

The alabaster-skinned redhead has been romantically linked to several of her fellow actors — Al Pacino (her co-star in *Carlito's Way*), Matthew Broderick (they did *Biloxi Blues* together), Don Johnson and Woody Harrelson. But as for her new fiancée, no one's quite sure who he was, and Armstrong doesn't seem to remember much about him. "He wasn't an actor," he says. "I think I remember reading he was a financial consultant or something like that."

Although, Armstrong does say, "The thing that struck me about both of them is what absolutely regular people they were. Really nice people."

Green Gates opened in June of 1996 in an old Dutch Colonial house on a seven-acre estate. The cuisine favours indigenous dishes, and ingredients are usually purchased from local farmers or grown in the property's two gardens.

The bisque is Armstrong's favourite item on the menu. "It's really good. I pretty much lived on it for five years," he says. "Just dip some bread in it and it's outstanding. It's very robust."

Technically, a bisque is thickened with seafood shells. "So this is more in the *style* of a bisque than an actual bisque," says Armstrong. "It's very thick. I've seen it tried elsewhere and it's never worked."

Whether it will inspire your mate to pop the question remains to be seen.

—Marni Weisz

For reservations at Green Gates Country House & Restaurant, call 204.897.0990.

ingredients

TO SERVE 6

Wild Rice/Wild Mushroom Bisque

Butter	75 g.
Carrots, chopped fine	75 g.
Garlic, chopped fine	2 cloves
Mixed mushrooms (portobello, chanterelle, oyster, button, shitake or morel), chopped fine	750 g.
Dry white wine	75 ml.
Whipping cream (35%)	250 ml.
Onions, chopped fine	150 g.
Celery, chopped fine	75 g.
Bay leaf	1
Dried thyme	1/2 tsp.
Cooked wild rice	400 g.
Cooked white rice	125 g.
Chicken or vegetable stock	1.75 L
Salt and pepper to taste	

GARNISH

Cooked wild rice	50 g.
Cooked wild mushrooms	50 g.
Parsley, chopped	1 Tbsp.

METHOD Chef Thomas Kidd says you can use any combination of mushrooms, but if using dried mushrooms, use half the amount and reconstitute them in hot water. Sauté onions, carrots, celery and mushrooms in butter. When the vegetables start to colour add the garlic and sauté for two more minutes. Add the white wine, bay leaf and thyme, then cook for an additional two minutes. Add the stock and cooked rice and simmer until rice is very soft. Pour in cream and simmer for another 10 minutes. Puree soup in a blender or food processor until smooth. If soup seems too thick, add a little more stock. Put the soup back in the pan and add salt and pepper to taste. Before serving, place a bit of cooked wild rice and the sautéed mushrooms at the bottom of each bowl. Then top with a bit of chopped parsley. "It's a rich soup," says Kidd, "but the most prominent flavour is the wild rice."



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CANADIAN
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FAMOUS PLAYERS



SIM-PLY Irresistible

CREATE YOUR OWN SOAP OPERA

By Marc Saltzman

Mike and Julie don't talk much anymore. In fact, Julie noticed Mike was spending quite a bit of time with their attractive neighbor, Sheila. Her suspicions were confirmed when she came home from work and found them in a hot tub together, kissing passionately. No, this isn't a rerun of *90210*. It's *The Sims*, the best-selling computer game of the year.

Will Wright, the brains behind the award-winning *SimCity* franchise (Maxis/Electronic Arts), is back with one of the most unique offerings the computer gaming industry has ever seen. But unlike *SimCity* — which focuses on building and maintaining the streets and structures of a thriving metropolis at the macro level — in *The Sims* you micromanage the *people* who reside in the city itself. Consider it a virtual soap opera, where your characters can follow various career paths, interact with other sims (short for simulated humans) or decorate a house from top to bottom.

Wright says his inspiration for *The Sims* was two fold: First, there was a rather academic book about architecture called *A Pattern Language*.



"But the final game bears very little resemblance to that book," he says. Then there were the writings of Polish science fiction writer/philosopher Stanislaw Lem. "Many of his stories centre around the ethics of creating and interacting with simulated entities and societies," Wright explains.

Pretty heady stuff, but it has translated well into gameland. *The Sims* has already spawned hundreds of fansites on the internet, and this month the first official expansion pack will be released, dubbed *The Sims: Livin' Large*.

In the game, players can either choose from a pre-made set of characters or create their own by selecting physical features and personality traits. And with the thriving online community, there are no limits for customization. There are literally thousands of downloadable goodies such as custom-built character faces (known as "skins") or alternate home decorations. These freebies aren't just eye candy either — they can alter gameplay. For instance, a player can download a soccer ball and if a sim comes across it, he might start kicking it around the house. If two come across it, they might pass it back and forth or even start a game with other denizens of your virtual neighborhood.

But living in *SimCity* isn't all fun and soccer games — you have to work, too. Remember, getting a job is one thing, but keeping it is another so keep an eye on the clock to make your carpool each morning (or at night, if you're a security guard or cop). You should also watch

outthismonth

Crimson Skies (PC)

It's 1937 and you are handsome and daring pilot Nathan Zachary battling for control of the skies at a time when the Great Depression, the Great War and prohibition have made living on land less than a ball. Air chatter with friends and foe, cinematic sequences and such challenging opponents as aerial ace Paladin Blake combine to evoke the feeling of an Errol Flynn adventure.

NFL 2K1 (Sega Dreamcast)

For the first time in history, gamers can play football against each other via the internet using the brand new SegaNet high speed console gaming network, available shortly before the release of this latest football challenge. The game features improved graphics over last year's model, as well as a Franchise Mode which lets you sign players, draft rookies and manage a salary cap.

Pokémon Puzzle League (Nintendo 64)

Ash and Pikachu head to the Pokémon Puzzle League Championship to defeat the mysterious Puzzle Master. You have to help them battle their way through 16 trainers in heated head-to-head puzzle competition.

NHL FaceOff 2001 (PlayStation)

PlayStation's latest version of *FaceOff* features all 30 NHL teams including the new Minnesota Wild and Columbus Blue Jackets. There are also four new play modes — Tournament, Shootout, Practice and Draft. New Jersey Devils play-by-play man Mike Emrick and ESPN's Darren Pang call the game.

your spending — we all want cool toys but we must be able to afford them, *n'est pas*? New dwellings or additional rooms can also be built and furnished with your personal selection of wallpaper, tiles, plants and other trimmings.

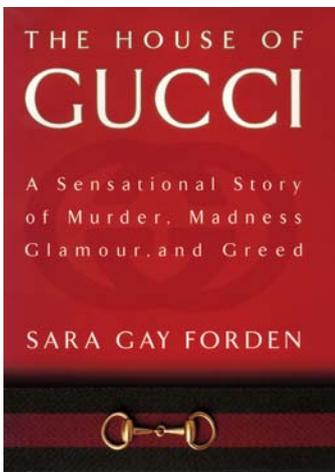
The new expansion pack adds more career paths, additional plots of land on which to build, 125 new objects, different house styles, new decorative patterns and more.

Even *90210*'s Donna and Kelly couldn't redecorate their beach house with such selection and ease.

Marc Saltzman is the author of Game Design: Secrets of the Sages (Macmillan Publishing).

GUCCI MURDER MILES DAVIS MASTERPIECE

JAMIE LEE'S BOOK OF BALLOONS



The House of Gucci: A Sensational Story of Murder, Madness, Glamour, and Greed

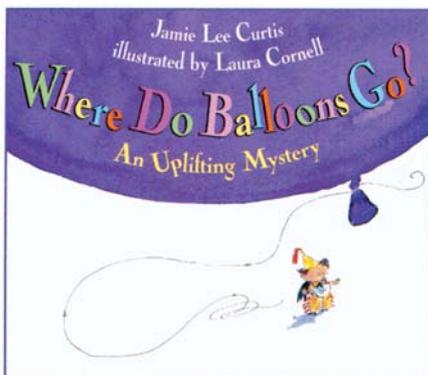
By Sara Gay Forden (William Morrow, \$39)

Right now, Patrizia Reggiani Gucci, estranged wife of slain fashion magnate Maurizio Gucci, sits in a jail cell in Milan awaiting an appeal and wondering if she will really have to live out her 29-year sentence behind bars. In 1995, her ex-husband was gunned down outside his swank office in Milan. After a lengthy investigation, the police decided all clues pointed to his ex-wife, who detested Maurizio for leaving her and falling in love with another woman. But that's not all you'll learn in this book by Sara Gay Forden, former Milan bureau chief for *Women's Wear Daily*. Although *The House of Gucci* is being marketed as a real-life murder mystery, it's also a historical account of the Gucci family from the turn of the century, when Guccio Gucci opened a modest leather goods store, until the present day.

Where Do Balloons Go? An Uplifting Mystery

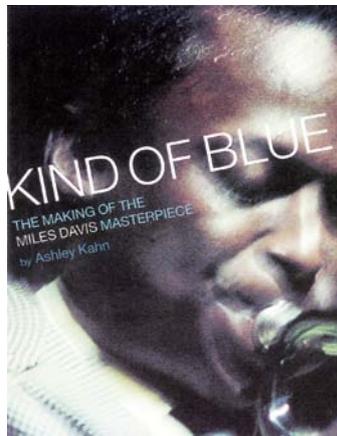
By Jamie Lee Curtis (HarperCollins, \$20)

Following in the footsteps of her famous father, Tony Curtis, who stretched beyond the acting world by becoming a respected painter, actress Jamie Lee Curtis (*True Lies*, *A Fish Called Wanda*) has extended her experience as an artist by becoming an author of children's books. First there was *Today I Feel Silly and Other Moods That Make My Day*, and now comes *Where Do Balloons Go? An Uplifting Mystery*. Curtis's playful verse ("Where do balloons go when you let them go free? It can happen by accident... It's happened to me") is brought to life by artist Laura Cornell's vibrant illustrations. If you're wondering, yes, Jamie Lee does have children — two, in fact — a girl named Annie and boy named Tom. They all live (with dad, actor Christopher Guest) in L.A.



Kind of Blue: The Making of the Miles Davis Masterpiece

By Ashley Kahn (Da Capo Press, \$35)



During two impromptu studio sessions back in 1959, an album that would come to be known as "The bible of jazz recordings" was plucked from the air and committed to vinyl. That album was Miles Davis' *Kind of Blue*. Now, more than 40 years later, journalist Ashley Kahn revisits those historic sessions with this meticulously researched chronicle that's bursting with photos, transcripts of session tapes, images of original scores and other bits of memorabilia. Kahn did more than 50 interviews with such music makers as Herbie Hancock and Elvin Jones, and surviving musicians from the sessions, like drummer Jimmy Cobb, in the course of his research.

—Marni Weisz

outthismonth

Stompin' Tom and The Connors Tone
By Stompin' Tom Connors

This sort-of-sequel to Connors' first autobiographical tome, *Before the Fame*, gives us more wacky road stories, more tales of people Connors has met during his travels and more of the quintessential Canadian musician's unique perspective on the world of music.

Chyna

By Chyna

Following on the heels of best-selling books by her fellow wrestlers, Mankind and The Rock, female gladiator, Chyna, tells her story of overcoming a childhood full of abuse to become one of the biggest stars of the WWF.

Off Camera: Private Thoughts Made Public

By Ted Koppel

The host of ABC's *Nightline* gives us his observations on everything from the Clinton impeachment trial to Kosovo to Viagra in this collection of essays. He also takes us back in time to the England of his youth, and through the 40 incredible years that have defined his career as one of America's most trusted newsmen.

Never Die Easy

By Walter Payton with Don Yaeger

Legendary football star Walter Payton died last November from liver cancer. But in the months before his passing he wrote this autobiography with writer Don Yaeger. Payton made Yaeger promise that the book would be "inspirational." It can't help but be, with stories like Walter's refusal to use his celebrity to get a better spot on the waiting list for organ donations.

High-Tech Heretic: Why Computers Don't Belong in the Classroom

By Clifford Stoll

Clifford Stoll, a Berkeley astronomer, has become a well-known media figure by being something of an oxymoron. While he loves computers and is considered a technology guru, he has long professed that the ubiquitous machines are overrated and shouldn't be considered the saviours of society. Now comes this critique of the school system's relentless drumbeat for "computer literacy."



By **Lezlie Lowe**

hey music junkie! Always on the cusp of the next development in sound technology? Tired of MP3s? Bored with Napster? Don't be dejected because you can't figure out what's looming on the music trend horizon. The next step forward may actually be a little step back. It's vinyl. Recordable vinyl, that is.

The long-time trinket of retro buffs and DJs the world over, vinyl records may be about to surge back into the mainstream with a boost from the Vestax VRX-2000 recordable vinyl machine. It's the first instrument of its kind that makes use of vinyl instead of the more common (and fragile) acetate, and the first designed for home-recording enthusiasts.

"People want vinyl," says Rob Squire, a.k.a. Sixtoo, a 26-year-old Halifax DJ. "Vinyl is a richer quality sound than a CD. Something happens when you put a signal onto vinyl that just isn't there when you put it onto CD. It's something more than nostalgic preservation."

Any DJ worth his or her salt will tell you the same thing — almost all club DJs make their music using vinyl records or dub plates (which look like records but are made of acetate). DJs who use CDs (called CDJs) are rare, and heavily frowned upon.

Strangely, music made by DJs is considered "electronic" or "digital" simply because it's not made by beer-spilling maniacs clanking guitars. But, in reality, DJs are the only musicians who cling so staunchly to the vinyl medium.

But that may change with the Vestax unit, which will move vinyl from the sweaty clubs to a previously digital domain — computer consoles in bedrooms and living rooms. That's because the machine, which looks a lot like a regular turntable, cuts records from any audio source, including radio and MP3. It accepts frequency signals just like a CD burner, then a lathe-

type gadget carves the signal's corresponding grooves into 12-inch vinyl. Voila, a record.

Daddy Kev, a DJ and producer with L.A.-based Celestial Recordings, thinks the Vestax VRX-2000 will make a big mark on the DJ industry. "Because it's not acetate," he says, "it will be a big deal for scratching." Acetate dub plates last about 50 plays per side before degrading. When a DJ is scratching, every time he or she cues a record forward or back it's considered a play. Scratching on a single verse or collection of beats for 10 minutes, could make a bald spot on an acetate record. But not on vinyl.

Vinyl is also less expensive than acetate. For the musician who wants to make his or her own music, and who savours the distinctive sound of vinyl, this new format will become the norm. "It's going to change everything," says Daddy Kev. "It'll be much easier for you to play your own original recording out there."

Of course, as with all new technology, the Vestax VRX-2000 still has a few bugs. While durability is better than acetate, the sound quality isn't quite as good. And then there's the cost — somewhere around \$9,000. But just like VCRs, DVDs and home computers, the VRX-2000 will decrease in cost and increase in quality and user-friendliness. Eventually, the recordable vinyl machine could become as common and affordable as a CD burner.

For both Daddy Kev and Sixtoo, recordable vinyl is another way DJs, and musicians from all genres, will be able to make and record their own music. "It'll empower people more," says Sixtoo. "If everyone is able to cut their own music to vinyl, it's going to add strength to DJ culture. It's just another step in the music-making chain."

Lezlie Lowe is music editor of The Coast, Halifax's arts and news weekly.

outthismonth

Artist: Erykah Badu
Title: The New Du
Label: Motown/Universal

Artist: Barenaked Ladies
Title: Maroon
Label: Warner Bros.

Artist: Bjork
Title: Selmasongs
Label: Elektra/Warner

Artist: Boyz II Men
Title: Nathan, Michael, Shawn & Wanya
Label: Universal

Artist: Fastball
Title: The Harsh Light of Day
Label: Hollywood Records/Universal

Artist: Mark Knopfler
Title: Sailing to Philadelphia
Label: Mercury/Universal

Artist: Limp Bizkit
Title: Chocolate Starfish and the Hotdog Flavored Water
Label: Interscope/Universal

Artist: Patty Loveless
Title: Strong Heart
Label: Epic/Sony

Artist: Madonna
Title: Music
Label: Warner Bros.

Artist: The Moffatts
Title: Submodalities
Label: EMI

Artist: Joan Osborne
Title: Righteous Love
Label: Interscope/Universal

Artist: Sunna
Title: One Minute Silence
Label: Melankolic/Virgin

Artist: Wallflowers
Title: Breach
Label: Interscope/Universal

Artist: Wild Strawberries
Title: Twist
Label: Universal

*Alvin Sanders is going to help the Feds catch a killer.
He just doesn't know it yet.*



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COMING SOON

scoop CENTRAL

CANADIAN WEBSITE TRACKS HOLLYWOOD RUMOURS

By Trent Ernst

Hey. Didja hear? They're making an *Aliens* vs. *Predator* movie, and get this: It'll star Arnold Schwarzenegger AND Harrison Ford. James Cameron is directing. It'll cost \$70-million just to pay those three. Yeah. And I've got it from an inside source at Skywalker Ranch that the new villain in *Star Wars 2* is Darth Kimball. And Lucas is recruiting lacrosse players to play Jedi Knights, because they know how to wield a stick.

Pretty cool, huh? Unfortunately, these rumours currently circulating on the internet are bunk according to Patrick Sauriol from the Coming Attractions website (www.corona.bc.ca/films/).

Vanity Fair, nominated for a Webby Award, and garnered favourable press from *Entertainment Weekly*, *Time*, *Premiere*, *Entertainment Tonight* and CNN. But it's only in the last few months that Coming Attractions (a.k.a. CA) started making enough money for Sauriol to give up his other jobs. "We're in the stages of CA transforming from a side hobby that one person used to do, to actually becoming a legitimate business entity that employs a staff!"

Much of that success comes from Sauriol's ability to get inside scoops. How inside? "We receive scoops from a diverse group of people, ranging from someone who saw something about a film in their local newspaper or on TV, to friends of cast and crew working on productions, to insiders working for the Hollywood studios, to the actual directors, screenwriters, stars and so on," says Sauriol. "I know some scoopers have snuck back into their boss's office after hours to sneak me some new information about a top secret movie project. I get tapes, movie scripts, letters sent to CA's mailbox and fax machine.... One fellow who regularly

scoops for me works in a high position for Disney. Another individual works for one of Hollywood's top talent agencies."

These inside scoopers usually use pseudonyms to protect their identities and careers, says Sauriol — a fear that is justified. "An employee of Peter Jackson's special effects company, WETA, got fired after their supervisor saw their name credited with a new scoop on CA!"

There are two types of rumours. The ones that are true, and the ones that aren't. One of the best aspects of Coming Attractions is that Sauriol culls through the rumours to extract the most accurate bits of information. Sometimes it can be tough to distinguish between what is truth and what is not, so when a new rumour appears from a new source, Sauriol will run it past his insiders. If they can't verify it, he will

surfing OUTSIDE THE STATES

The U.S. of A. isn't the only country producing quality websites that follow Hollywood. Canada's Coming Attractions is one of the best non-American online film entities, but here are two more that are worth checking out.

AUSTRALIA DARK HORIZONS

www.darkhorizons.com

Sydney-based Garth Franklin runs this comprehensive source of info about blockbuster movies and your favourite cult TV shows. He gets more than 150,000 hits per day from people eager to surf his "News & Rumours" section or browse indexes for movies already released, coming soon and in the works. The site also features lots of photos snapped surreptitiously by folks "wandering" past film sites, links to other movie gossip sites and trailers for upcoming films.

UNITED KINGDOM FILM UNLIMITED

<http://filmunlimited.co.uk>

In-depth features and reviews of current films are augmented by up-to-date news and rumours on this well-organized British site. There's also a section that matches your mood to the movie you should be popping in the old VCR or DVD player. Battling with your diet?

either run it with a warning that the information isn't verified, or sit on it. One of his proudest bits of inside information was that Jimmy Smits would be cast in the new *Star Wars* movie, a rumour his site broke seven weeks before the official announcement.

So, what's the appeal of doing a site like this? For Sauriol, it's simple: "Breaking a story that sounds like complete baloney, that isn't accepted and believed by anyone, that is [used as] another example of the shoddy practice of a disreputable website...and being proven 100% correct a couple of weeks later. Unbelievable feeling."

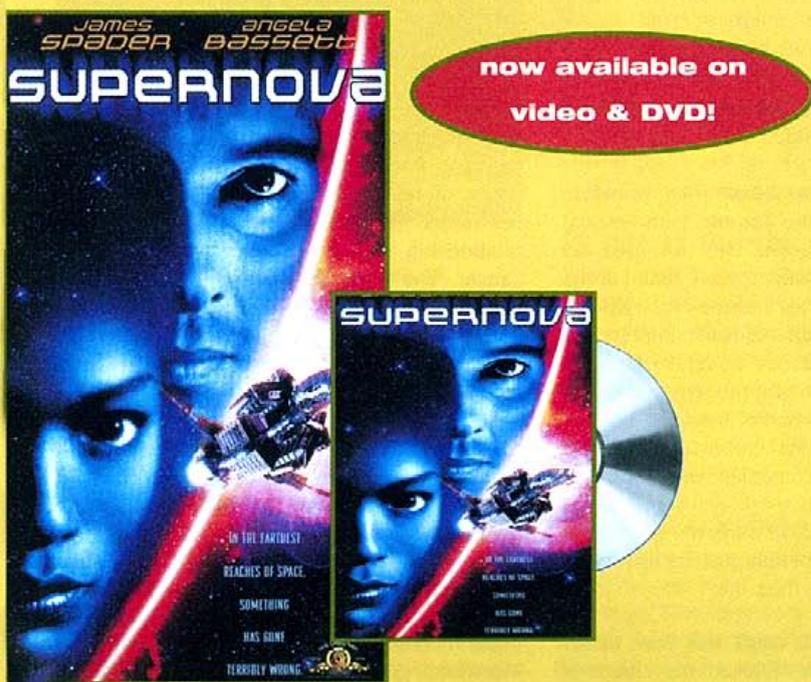
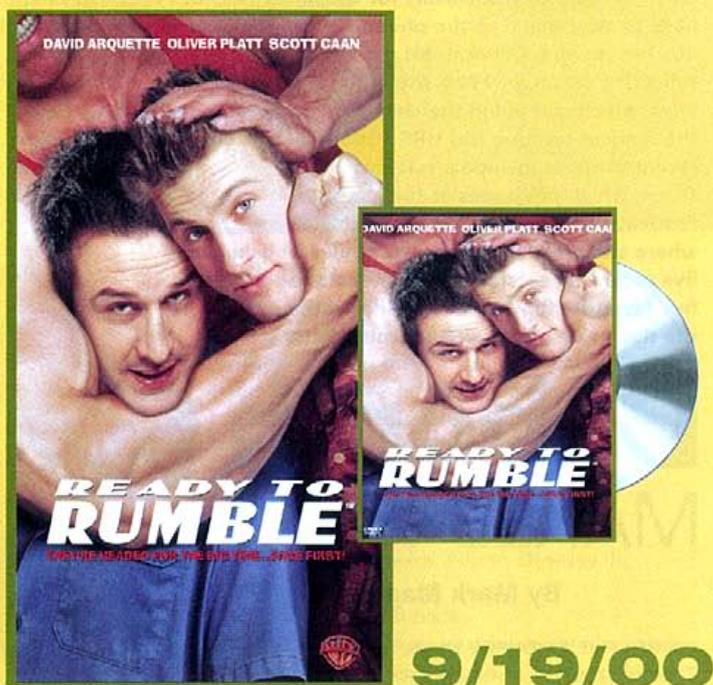
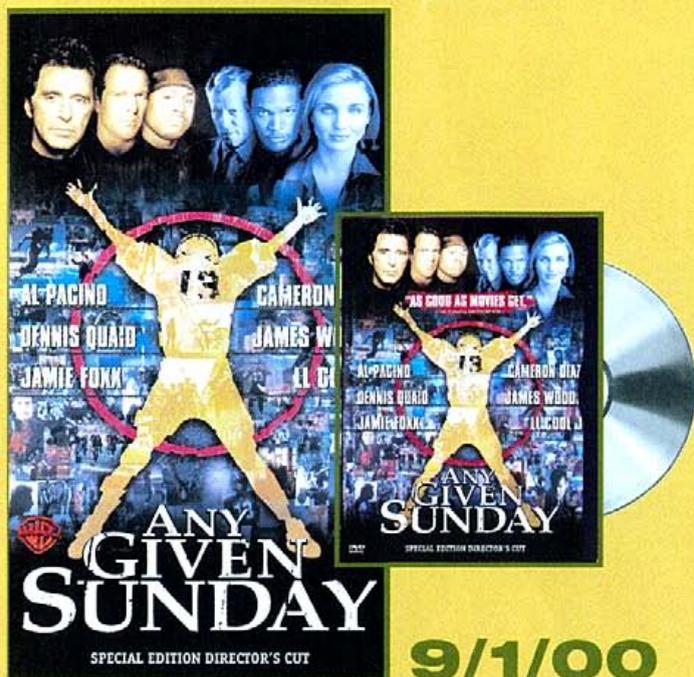
Trent Ernst is a freelance writer based in Chilliwack, B.C.



He should know. Started in April of 1995, the Vancouver, B.C.-based Coming Attractions was tracking movie news and rumours before the notorious movie gossip site Ain't-It-Cool-News was a glint in founder Harry Knowles' eye. "We had exactly 12 film listings," recalls Sauriol. "I put up all the information I could find about such projects as *Goldeneye*, or the first *Toy Story*, or the mother-of-all-wishful-projects at the time, *Star Wars: Episode One*."

A former comic book writer and editor, Sauriol began the project with no knowledge of HTML, and only a vague concept of what a website was. "I wasn't doing much writing anyway, and I thought it would help keep me producing content while looking for my next writing gig," he says. In the five and a half years since, the site has been selected as a rising Hollywood talent by

Movies To Go



at your LOCAL videostore

Ask most people what “Canadian music” means to them, and you’ll probably get the same three answers: The Tragically Hip, Stompin’ Tom Connors and East Coast fiddle hoe-downs. Luckily for us though, Canuck music doesn’t have to stop there, as the phenomenal success of R&B diva Deborah Cox has proven. Deborah hit the music scene running in 1995 with her self-titled debut. In 1998, she followed that up with the album *One Wish*, which contained the single “Nobody’s Supposed to be Here” — the longest running No. 1 R&B single in *Billboard* magazine history. Her recent projects include a role in the Clement Virgo film *Love Come Down*, which premieres at this month’s Toronto International Film Festival, and a state-of-the-art website (www.deborahcox.com), where she plans to broadcast regular webchats and live recording sessions. Here she talks about her five favourite films, her foray into acting and the downside of the web for musicians.

Deborah Cox

MAKES HER PICKS

By Mark Magee

ON HER FIVE FAVOURITE FILMS “My first pick is **Titanic** (1997). I love romance, so that was a big thing for me, but I also really, really loved all the effects and the big ship. My favourite scene was when the boat broke in half and the top section started going down into the water. That was just the most exciting part. And you got to see all the people falling into the water! Which is kinda morbid, but they just looked so real! • Number two is **Notting Hill** (1999). I thought that was a very funny movie. The story was really sweet, but I especially liked Hugh Grant’s quirky roommate. He was my favourite thing in the whole movie. Like I said, I’m a sucker for romance. • For number three, I’d say **Boomerang** (1992), with Eddie Murphy and Martin Lawrence. I’m a big Eddie Murphy fan. I also thought *Life* was hilarious, which also had Martin Lawrence. I liked *Nutty Professor*, but *Boomerang* and *Life* are my two favourite Eddie movies. • Number four is actually two movies, **Mission: Impossible 1** (1996) and **2** (2000). I thought the action sequences in each of them were so cool. And I loved the stories, trying to figure out who did what to who. They both had good mysteries behind them. And that scene with the two guys leaping off the motorcycles and firing at each other...awesome! • For number five I’d say **The Lion King** (1994). I just loved that Simba. You know, I actually started welling up during that film, at the part when Simba’s dad died and when he came back as the cloud. I really



love all animated films, especially if they have a good story, like *Bambi*.”

ON HER UPCOMING FILM DEBUT “It’s a movie that’s going to be in the Toronto Film Festival called *Love Come Down*. It’s directed by Clement Virgo and stars myself and Larenz Tate. I play a character named Nico who is adopted and lives with a Jewish family. The story revolves around her trying to find her biological father, and along the way she meets Neville [Tate], and the two of them fall in love. He’s quite a dysfunctional character in a sense — he’s a struggling comedian who falls into drugs and is trying to work out some issues with his step-brother. So I think the whole film is really about these people just trying to find some kind of hope in their life.”

ON WHY SHE CHOSE TO MAKE HER FILM DEBUT WITH LOVE COME DOWN “I loved the character Nico. I thought that she was somebody I hadn’t seen on screen before, this black girl who’s grown up in a Jewish household. I’m sure that

people who are trying to find truth in their life will relate to her, because that’s what she’s trying to find. She has to deal with so many levels of relationships, her relationship with her father, her relationship with Neville, her relationship with her mother who’s dying of cancer. You kind of go through this journey with her as she tries to find ways of mending those things. [Laughs.] And I got to kiss Larenz with 12 people standing around watching!”

ON MP3S “I’m totally against the pirating. I think there has to be some sort of law implemented very, very soon to stop it. These people don’t understand that this is our creativity, this is our work that comes from our heart and our soul. And when people can just log on and download it for nothing, it’s crazy. It costs money to make records, it costs money to do recordings. Musicians gotta get paid. Studios gotta get paid. There’s a lot involved, and I think some people are taking a very one-sided approach to their philosophy of music ownership.”

new RELEASES

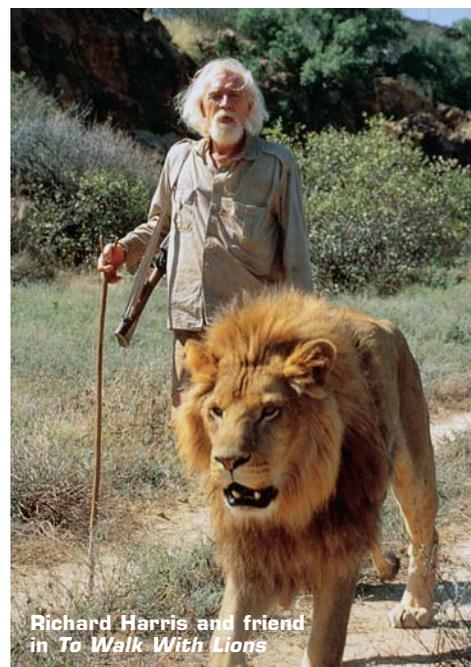
GET READY TO RUMBLE, ENJOY ANY GIVEN SUNDAY OR GO ON A MISSION TO MARS

The Next Best Thing (August 29)

Stars: Madonna, Rupert Everett

Director: John Schlesinger

Story: When a straight woman (Madonna) and her gay male friend (Everett) share a drunken night of passion and conceive a child, they decide to raise the baby together. But their arrangement turns out to be more complicated than they predicted. **Also available on DVD.**



Richard Harris and friend
in *To Walk With Lions*

To Walk With Lions (August 29)

Stars: Richard Harris, Honor Blackman

Director: Carl Schultz

Story: Legendary British actor Richard Harris plays writer/conservationist George Adamson in this true story. The plot revolves around Adamson's battle to protect the giant cats on his African lion preserve from poachers. **Also available on DVD.**

Any Given Sunday (September 1)

Stars: Al Pacino, Dennis Quaid, Cameron Diaz

Director: Oliver Stone

Story: Pacino plays the head of a football team in the Associated Football Franchise of America (AFFA) who fights to protect the team and its aging quarterback (Quaid) after a new owner (Diaz) takes over. **Also available on DVD.**

East is East (September 12)

Stars: Om Puri, Linda Bassett

Director: Damien O'Donnell

Story: This British comedy won a slew of awards in the U.K. before being released in North America. It takes place in the Seventies and follows the stubborn attempts of a Pakistani father (Puri) to raise his children with traditional Pakistani values and convince them to marry Pakistani partners — despite the fact that his wife (Bassett) is white. **Also available on DVD.**

Mission to Mars (September 12)

Stars: Tim Robbins, Gary Sinise, Don Cheadle

Director: Brian De Palma

Story: After the first manned mission to Mars ends in disaster, a second crew is sent to the Red Planet to save the one survivor and figure out what went wrong. What they find is beyond anything they could have imagined.

High Fidelity (September 19)

Stars: John Cusack, Iben Hjejle

Director: Stephen Frears

Story: Thirtysomething Rob Gordon (Cusack) is a self-centered record store manager going through an early mid-life crisis. Guided by conversations with his staff about their lives and how the music they listen to shapes them, he tries to figure out his place in the adult world. Bruce Springsteen appears in a cameo.

Ready to Rumble (September 19)

Stars: David Arquette, Scott Caan, Oliver Platt

Director: Brian Robbins

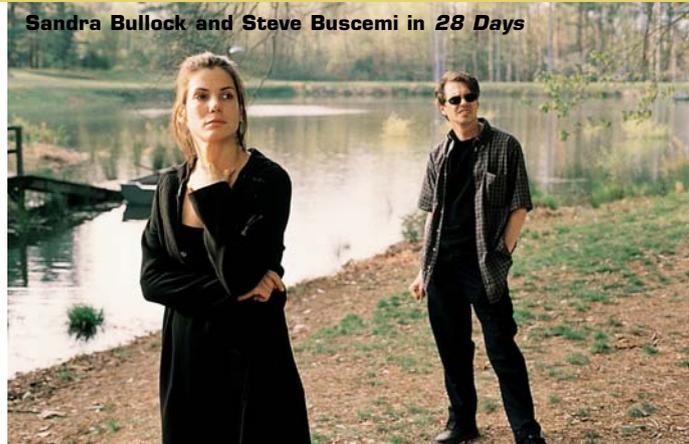
Story: When their favourite WCW wrestler (Platt) is ousted from the league, two dimwitted sewage workers (Arquette and Caan) head to WCW headquarters in Atlanta with a plan to help their hero get his job back and win the title. **Also available on DVD.**

The Big Kahuna (September 19)

Stars: Kevin Spacey, Danny DeVito, Peter Facinelli

Director: John Swanbeck

Story: Three salesmen (Spacey, DeVito and Facinelli) spend a weekend holed up in their hotel suite waiting for a big client to stop by. They pass the time by swapping philosophies about sales and life. **Also available on DVD.**



Sandra Bullock and Steve Buscemi in *28 Days*

28 Days (September 19)

Stars: Sandra Bullock, Steve Buscemi

Director: Betty Thomas

Story: After an out-of-control alcoholic (Bullock) steals a limo and crashes it into a house during her sister's wedding, she is sent to a rehab clinic for 28 days to clean up and dry out. **Also available on DVD.**

Black and White (September 26)

Stars: Brooke Shields, Robert Downey, Jr., Scott Caan

Director: James Toback

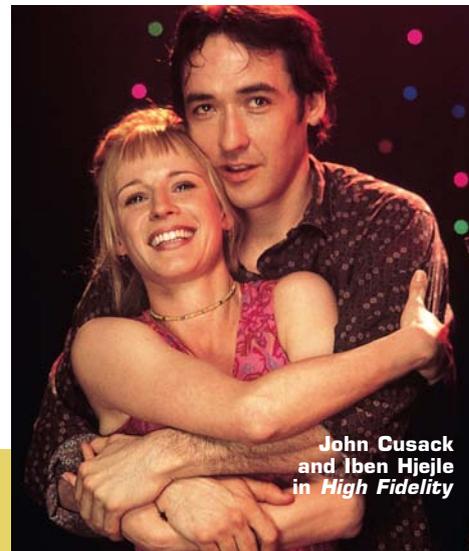
Story: Shields plays a documentary filmmaker exploring the phenomenon of white middle-class kids who like to emulate black inner city kids. This film earned critical acclaim at last year's Toronto International Film Festival. **Also available on DVD.**

Final Destination (September 26)

Stars: Devon Sawa, Ali Larter

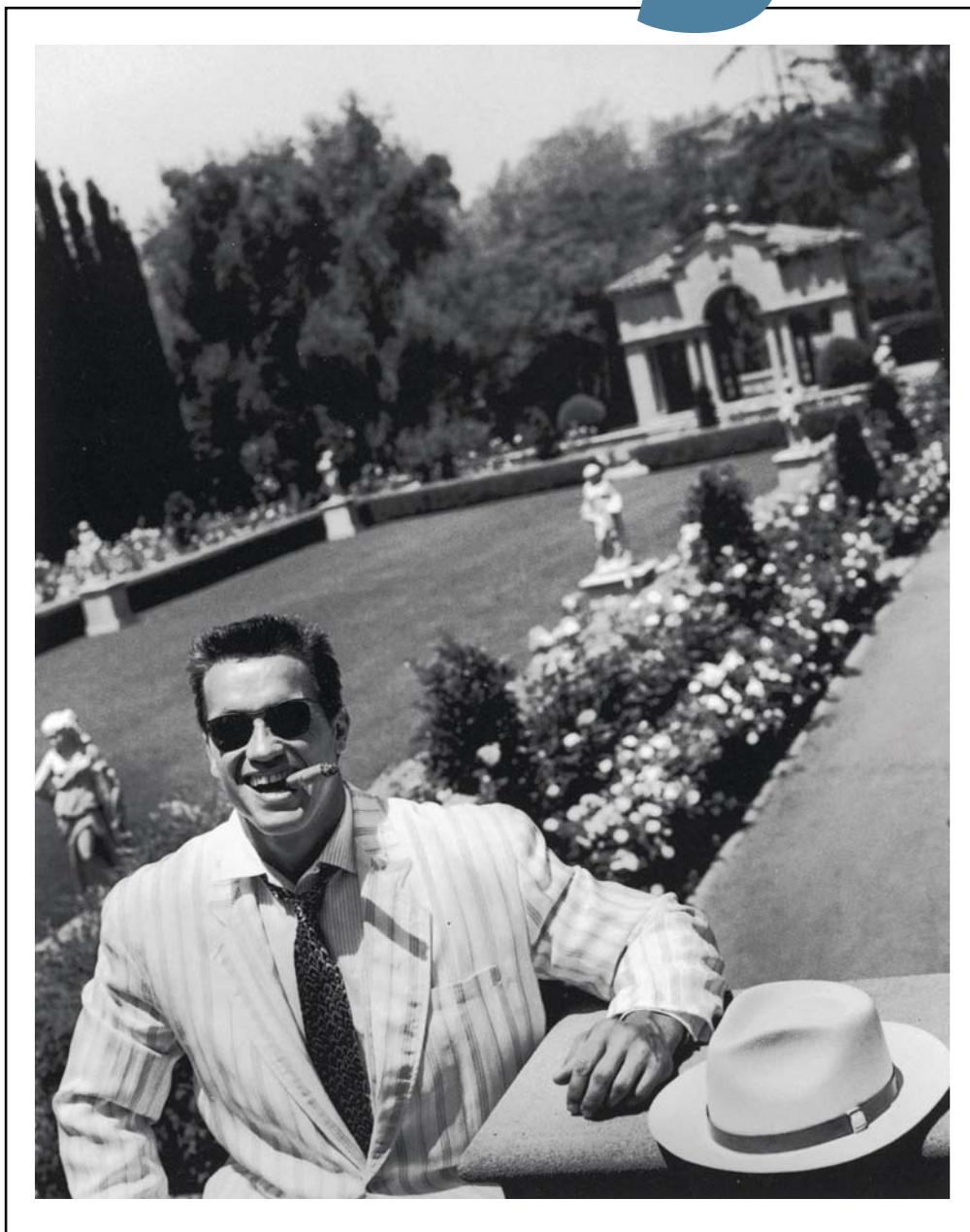
Director: James Wong

Story: Alex (Sawa), a 17-year-old high school student, has a vision that the Paris-bound plane he and his six buddies are about to catch will explode in mid-air, so he talks them out of going. The plane does explode, and it looks like they avoided catastrophe. But his buddies start to drop like flies anyway and he could be next if he doesn't figure out what's going on.



John Cusack
and Iben Hjejle
in *High Fidelity*

outrageous



ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER

"REINSTATE FAMILY VALUES. WHEN I WAS GROWING UP AND I CAME HOME FROM SCHOOL, MY MOTHER WOULD SAY, 'PULL OUT THE BOOKS. LET'S SEE WHAT THE HOMEWORK IS.' SHE WOULD WORK WITH ME. ONLY WHEN ALL THAT WAS ACCOMPLISHED COULD I GO OUT AND PLAY. THEN, WHEN MY FATHER CAME HOME, WE'D START KICKING THE SOCCER BALL IN FRONT OF THE HOUSE. THERE WAS A RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN MOTHER AND CHILD, AND FATHER AND CHILD WHICH IS NOT THERE ANYMORE. I WISH IT WERE."

ROSEANNE "My most outrageous wish is that gays will run the world, because then there would be no war — just a greater emphasis on military apparel."

SUSAN SARANDON "My most outrageous wish? When I get to heaven and see God, I'd like to hear her say, 'Let's party!'"

ROD STEIGER "My dream is to drop dead in front of the camera or in the heights of lovemaking."

DREW BARRYMORE "I've always wanted a brother. When we made *Mad Love*, Chris O'Donnell was my ultimate brother. I mean, we'd clean each other's ears out with Q-Tips."

REVEAL THEIR MOST

wishes

By Susan Granger

WOODY HARRELSON "My wish is that war stops being lucrative. The problem is that people make so much money through our military encounters."

SANDRA BULLOCK "To take a whole year off and do absolutely nothing but stay home and nest and hang out with my pooches."

KATHY BATES "My most outrageous wish is that Hollywood would stop holding up these gorgeous, slim 19-year-olds as role models. What it's done to me as a woman is make me feel that I'm not good enough. It's a constant negative message and I fear it's wishful thinking to assume it will cease."

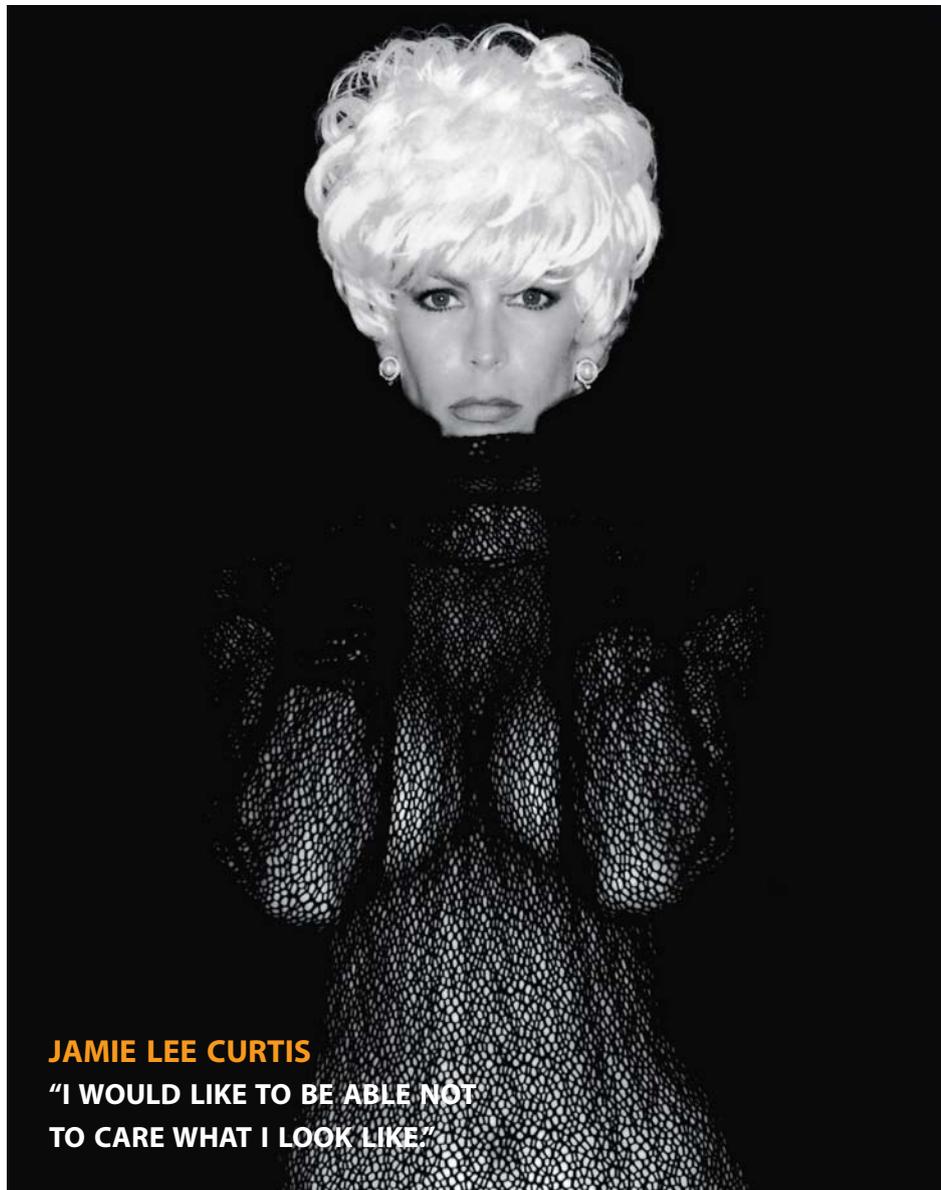
MORGAN FREEMAN "To sail the ocean blue. It's been one of my enduring dreams — just to go sailing."

BRANDY "I'd like to almost not have to work anymore. I'd like to be like Julia Roberts, who does a film because she likes it, not because she needs the money."

MICHAEL CAINE "Remove envy from the U.K. One of the great British diseases is envy. Every nation has its own disease. America's is greed. France's is chauvinism and England's is envy. When you're working class and you've made it big, envy is what you have to cope with."

EDDIE MURPHY "I don't remember a time when black people have been happy. Racism is as prevalent in society as it's ever been. Everybody is unhappy — and I suppose my most outrageous wish would be to have that change in my lifetime."

RICHARD GERE "A cure for AIDS. I've had a lot of friends who died from AIDS. It's a horrendous situation. I still don't think governments are doing enough."



JAMIE LEE CURTIS

"I WOULD LIKE TO BE ABLE NOT TO CARE WHAT I LOOK LIKE."

ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER AND JAMIE LEE CURTIS PHOTOS COURTESY OF GREG GORMAN.
INSIDE LIFE: RIZZOLI INTERNATIONAL PUBLICATIONS, INC. 1997

starstruck

By Dan Liebman

VIRGO

August 23-September 22

Expect changes in your living arrangements. Long-term guests and short-term relocations are among the possibilities. Mid-month is ideal for unloading art objects and collectibles. Back-to-back promotions are in store for you or a loved one. Watch out for a gullible streak that surfaces toward month's end.

LIBRA

September 23-October 22

Although your influence and encouragement can help a partner out of an emotional slump, you play far more than a supporting role this month. You'll excel as a host and shine as a team leader. Mid-month finds you working on a family tree or related project.

SCORPIO

October 23-November 21

While a casual acquaintance reveals a whole lot more than you need to know, your closest friends clam up. That's par for the course in a strange month that accents contrasts and contradictions: slowdowns at work one week, overtime another. Battle through a romantic slump around the 10th, because the action heats up by the 20th.

SAGITTARIUS

November 22-December 22

This month looks good for a makeover — new hairstyle, new perfume, new wardrobe. Just opt for subtlety over razzle dazzle. You need to make some tough budget decisions, especially in the area of shared expenses.

CAPRICORN

December 23-January 20

Decisions you make throughout September should come from the heart, as well as the head. An old flame may be trying to get in touch, but the communications channels are temporarily blocked. Your own intuition is strongest from the 22nd on.

AQUARIUS

January 21-February 19

Here's a taste of what's on tap this month: soirées, a boss or co-worker with an attitude, a wonderful new soul mate and a friend who wants to be indulged. But take time out for yourself, or you'll be overwhelmed by it all.

PISCES

February 20-March 20

Your key to romance lies in balancing the passive yin with the active yang. Confirming appointments is all-important from the 11th through the 19th. And, at work, your knowledge of an obscure subject can earn the admiration of those in high places.

ARIES

March 21-April 20

It's a month of small misunderstandings. For instance, flirtations may not be all that innocent and financial offers may be less firm than you believe. But the first two weeks are outstanding for setting up a health and fitness plan. And the last 12 days of September see you enjoying good times — at long last — with a very special friend.

TAURUS

April 21-May 22

You're inclined to talk yourself into things — especially from the 2nd through the 14th, so why not go for the really interesting stuff? A romantic partner is extra supportive, friends are giving you more space and, by the 20th, you're finally able to loosen those purse strings and spend a little cash on yourself.

GEMINI

May 23-June 21

Romantic dry spells end and September develops into a month of sweet sentiments. It's also an unexpectedly creative time, even if you're merely doodling. Some cautions though: Health needs, job conflicts and household repairs all require prompt attention.



KATIA SMIRNOVA

CANCER

June 22-July 22

You're unusually focused following a period of diversions. The first two weeks of September are outstanding for trouble shooting at work. Sorting out relationships is ideal for weeks three and four. Your honest, independent thinking could lead to a commendation by the 30th. Just watch out for a late month absent-minded streak.

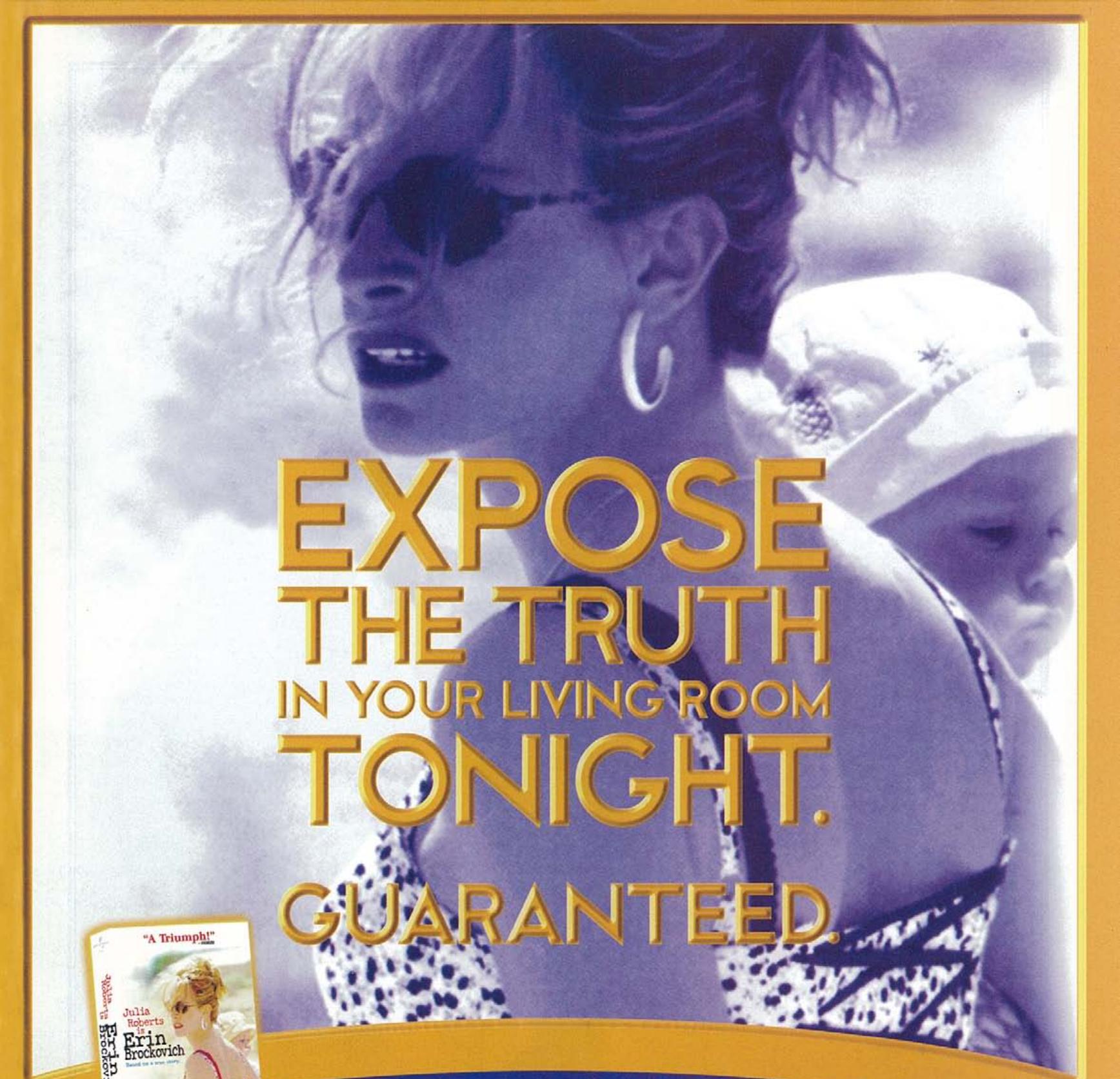
LEO

July 23-August 22

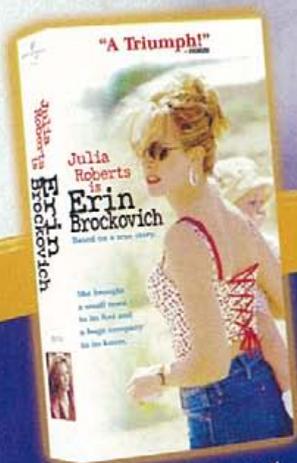
Your knack for bringing adversaries together works wonders through the Labour Day weekend. You and your partner may be swapping your typical roles near the 15th. Small challenges unexpectedly faze you around the 20th. The last week of September is ripe for adding flare to your wardrobe and zing to your romantic life.

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

1st	Lily Tomlin	15th	Oliver Stone
2nd	Keanu Reeves	16th	Lauren Bacall
3rd	Charlie Sheen	17th	Anne Bancroft
4th	Neil Simon	18th	Frankie Avalon
5th	Raquel Welch	19th	Jeremy Irons
6th	Rosie Perez	20th	Sophia Loren
7th	Corbin Bernsen	21st	Stephen King
8th	Billy Crudup	22nd	Andrea Bocelli
9th	Adam Sandler	23rd	Jason Alexander
10th	Chris Columbus	24th	Pedro Almodóvar
11th	Harry Connick, Jr.	25th	Heather Locklear
12th	Ian Holm	26th	Linda Hamilton
13th	Jacqueline Bisset	27th	Meat Loaf
14th	Sam Neill	28th	Gwyneth Paltrow



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