## JULIA ROBERTS, BRAD AND OTHER STARS RECALL THEIR FIRST F september 2001 volume 2 number 9 canada's entertainment

lifestyle magazine



MARK WAHLBERG RAPS ABOUT ROCK STAR

EE SOBIESKI

TALKS JOY RIDE AND GLASS HOUSE

**JEANNE BEKER GABS** WITH JEWELLERY GURUS

gives you the pitch for his new baseball movie Hardball

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Perhaps it's because he didn't get to play a monkey in *Planet of the Apes* that Mark Wahlberg jumped at the chance to don a long, flowing mane for the heavy metal comedy *Rock Star*. Find out how he felt about that fake lid and why it wasn't easy for this former pop star to play a rocker **By Earl Dittman** 

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If Leelee Sobieski's distinctive name doesn't distinguish her from the pack, the three films she stars in this fall should. The 19-year-old tries to prove she's got range in the teen thriller *The Glass House*, the road horror *Joy Ride* and the suburban drama *My First Mister* **By Stephen Schaefer** 

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## Hardball a hit?

ure, Keanu Reeves has taken some critical knocks. But perhaps that's because the Toronto-bred actor has played such a diverse range of characters over the past decade — from a dizzy time traveler in Bill & Ted's Excellent Adventure (a good performance) to an 18th-century chevalier in Dangerous Liaisons (not so good). From a disenfranchised teen in the disturbing *River's Edge* (another



good one) to a workaholic adman in Sweet November (downright awful). He even painted his skin brown to play holy man Prince Siddhartha in Bernardo Bertolucci's unfortunate Little Buddha (just weird). Point is, he's never been afraid to take chances or try something new.

And when Keanu does overextend himself Hollywood forgives him because, let's face it, the boy's easy on the eyes. Plus, little flicks like Speed and *The Matrix* didn't do so bad at the box office.

In his latest outing, playing an unlikely Little

League coach in Hardball, Reeves ventures into new territory yet again by heading up a cast of children — a challenge with which he also bravely breaks that sacred Hollywood rule: Never work with kids or animals. For "Keanu Goes to Bat," page 32, Earl Dittman spoke with Reeves about making the film, all those strange rumours and getting second chances in life.

Hollywood seems to be experiencing an epidemic of young blond actresses — Reese Witherspoon, Alicia Silverstone, Julia Stiles, Renée Zellweger, Erika Christensen, Kirsten Dunst. Then there's Leelee Sobieski, who hasn't done as much as some of them, but earned a conditional pass into that fair group when she appeared in 1999's Eyes Wide Shut. The success of the three, count 'em, three, movies she appears in this fall — Joy Ride, The Glass House and My First Mister — will probably determine whether Leelee breaks away from the crowd, or falls back from the pack. In "Leelee's Big Fall," page 28, Sobieski tells Stephen Schaefer about each of those films, and why she's glad to finally be finished high school.

And have you seen the shots of Mark Wahlberg dressed up like a glam metalhead in Rock Star? If the comedy is half as funny as Wahlberg looks in that flowing mane and leather ensemble, the rapper-turned-actor will be able to put a nice cap on a three-year personal boom-time which also yielded Three Kings, The Perfect Storm and Planet of the Apes. Wahlberg shares both the scariest and grossest moments from the shoot in "Rock on, Marky Mark," page 20.

Plus, on page 26 Jeanne Beker introduces you to a couple of young jewellers who have Julia Roberts' ear — not to mention Marisa Tomei's finger and Gwyneth Paltrow's wrist. — Marni Weisz

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#### FAMOUS WANTS YOUR FEEDBACK. WRITE TO US.

- by email: editor@fpmedia.ca
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Letters may be edited for length and clarity. Please include your full name, city of residence and contact info (email or phone).

#### letters

#### NOT NUTS ABOUT CRAZY/BEAUTIFUL

I love movies. I mean, I really love movies. Your July magazine (p.16) states that someone had the temerity to compare crazy/beautiful to Love Story and Rebel Without a Cause. Are you serious? For these movies to be mentioned in the same breath is sacrilege. crazy/beautiful is, without a doubt, one of the worst movies ever made. Dreadful acting, really bad story line, dumb title. There is nothing remotely beautiful about it. Not one redeeming factor.... Whatever misguided person made this insane comparison knows ZERO about movies and should pen an immediate apology to the directors/producers of *Love Story* and Rebel Without a Cause.

Carol Mackay — Toronto, Ont.



#### **JURASSIC PARK FREAK**

I'm 15 years old and a total *Jurassic Park* freak. Because of this I would like to thank you for the July 2001 article entitled "A Run in the Park" where you interviewed William H. Macy. I was wondering if you may be able to answer a few questions for me: 1) Is *JP 3* going to be the last *Jurassic Park* film, or are there plans to make a fourth? 2) Were the actors who ended up getting eaten nervous about the stunts they needed to do for those scenes? 3) What dinosaur did Sam Neill like the most on the *JP 3* set? 4) Do you know where I could send away for, or find, a *JP 3* promotional collector card? It is supposed to be a very coveted collectors item.

John DeQuadros — Brantford, Ont.

1) Yes, Universal does have a Jurassic Park 4 in the extremely early stages of development.
2) Good question. We have no idea. 3) Don't know — we'll ask Sam next time he calls up to chat. 4) Yes, believe it or not, we can answer that! Those cards were produced by Inkworks out of Raleigh, N.C. While supplies last, you can get one by sending a self-addressed envelope plus a "Coupon Response International" form (which you get at your post office to cover the cost of postage) to Inkworks Jurassic Park Web Site Promo — JP3i, P.O. Box 52099, Raleigh, N.C., 27612, USA.

#### **FAN MAIL INFO**

I was wondering where I might write to Mark Wahlberg. I really thought he was good in *The Perfect Storm* and *Three Kings*.

E. Selman — Petrolia, Ont.

You can write to the former Marky Mark c/o United Talent Agency, 9560 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 500, Beverly Hills, CA, 90212, USA. And be sure to check out our Q & A with Mr. W. on page 20 of this issue.

#### **MYSTERIOUS GINGER SNAPS TUNE**

In the movie *Ginger Snaps* there is a song that plays three times: beginning credits, when Ginger is scratching the bathroom door and the end credits. My friends and I love that song but it's not on the soundtrack, nor is it even mentioned on the website. We'd like to know what it's called, who it's by and why it's not on the soundtrack.

Myriam Pansieri — Montreal, Que.

The tune you're talking about is simply called "Theme for Ginger," and you're right, for some reason Road Runner Records decided to leave it off the soundtrack. Sorry. But we can tell you that it was written by Calgary composer Mike Shields who you can learn more about, or contact, through his website www.mikeshields.com.

#### **SOMETHING TO DO WITH A CAR**

I am hoping you can help. Drew Barrymore is going to be starring in a movie based on a true story. Could you please tell me the name of the movie and the name of the book it was based on? I am interested in reading the novel and I think it was called *Driving in a Car with Boys* but that name doesn't show up in the computer at Chapters. Thanks for your help.

Marla Nitkin — Toronto, Ont.

You were close. The name of the movie (due out Oct. 19) is Riding in Cars with Boys and the book is Riding in Cars with Boys: Confessions of a Bad Girl Who Makes Good by Beverly Donofrio.

#### **FAMOUS WELCOMES YOUR COMMENTS**

Address them to: Letters to the Editor, Famous magazine, 102 Atlantic Ave., Suite 100, Toronto, Ontario, M6K 1X9; or fax us at 416.539.8511; or drop us an email at editor@fpmedia.ca. Letters may be edited for length and clarity. Please include your full name, city of residence and contact info (email or phone).



### CARLA COLLINS ON WHERE GWYNETH OFFERED TO LEND A HAND, HOW SMITH SAVED A LIFE AND WHY DUCHOVNY'S ART'S A BUMMER

The Choke's on You Ananova reports that Will Smith recently had to save a female fan from choking after a birthday surprise for her went wrong. Smith was shopping in Los Angeles when a fan asked him to surprise



his girlfriend who was celebrating her birthday nearby. Will snuck up and started to sing "Happy Birthday" to the teenager when she promptly began to choke on her burger and Smith had to perform the Heimlich manoeuvre. Sadly, he wasn't around to help the thousands of movie patrons who gagged all the way through Wild Wild West. They could only be saved by repeated Heineken manoeuvres.



#### **Flying Lowe**

According to the London Sun, Oscar-winner/hootchie-mama Gwyneth Paltrow tried to spice up a limp love scene in the upcoming A View From the Top by offering to stick her hand down co-star Rob Lowe's trousers.

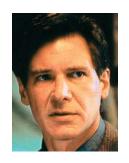
Believe it or not, the former amateur videographer said no. Replied Lowe, "I've been married 10 years. Don't touch my pants." In a related story, former U.S. President Bill Clinton is said to be looking into acting and will be auditioning for Shakespeare in Love II: The Bard Fights Back.

#### The Truth is *Really* Out There

David Duchovny and wife Téa Leoni are true art aficionados. Leoni tells *People News*, "David and I recently did some butt painting for a charity auction. I call myself the paint loader. I apply different colours to his cheeks



and then he sits on the canvas. Sometimes I get to spank him a little to blend the colours." Say, didn't the Group of Seven start that way? And you thought actors just talked out their asses. Raiders of the Lost Arch Harrison Ford is in talks to return for a fourth Indiana Jones movie and a source tells the New York Post that "they want the original credits — George Lucas producing, Steven Spielberg directing and Harrison Ford to star." The film would, of course, have to feature an older Indiana Jones because Ford is now 59. For example, instead of his trademark fedora, Indy would sport a Tilly hat, and the left indicator on his Jeep would blink throughout the entire movie. Indiana Jones will still be scared of snakes, but he'll now be able to crush them with his Able-walker. Rumours are already circulating that Angela Lansbury is in talks to star as his love interest.



Willy or Won't He? John Travolta recently flew his own plane to Australia — complete with an entourage of 24 servants, caretakers and massage therapists. According to *The West Australian*, the actor spoke at length of his love for their culture: the bush, the Bee Gees and a peculiar stage play called *Puppetry of the Penis*. "I heard there's a play in town that's about talkative wieners," the actor told the paper. "I like the broad-mindedness. I just don't know if I'd star in it." That makes sense. Travolta doesn't want to be typecast — especially after already playing a big wiener in *Battlefield Earth*.

Eye Carumba! Catherine Zeta-Jones apparently caused some problems for the producers of America's Sweethearts — not because of any diva-esque shenanigans but because, when they had to reshoot the ending months after the film had wrapped, it appeared she'd had some work done. A source tells The Scoop, "Catherine looks completely different in the new footage. Her eyes look different." Though the actress's publicist has denied she went under the knife, it does make sense. There must have been something wrong with her eyes for quite some time. She obviously didn't see Michael Douglas' flat, saggy butt in Basic Instinct.

Busted Move Alec Baldwin was reportedly spotted in a Long Island antique store aggressively hitting on a shapely young blonde. The obligatory anonymous source tells *The Scoop*, "There's no question he was trying to pick her up. He was asking her personal questions, and coming on pretty strong." It all fell apart like a cheap bag of marbles when her angry husband confronted the hairy-backed has-been. Baldwin



reportedly looked like a guv who'd been cornered in the remote part of a prison yard and was all out of cigarettes. It's an absolute shocker that his repeated attempts to get back with Kim Basinger are failing. I'm no marriage counsellor, but when trying to woo back your wife, stay away from shapely young blondes...and antique stores.



Carla Collins is an actor/comedian/supermodel and the host of CTV's Sonic Temple and eNow.

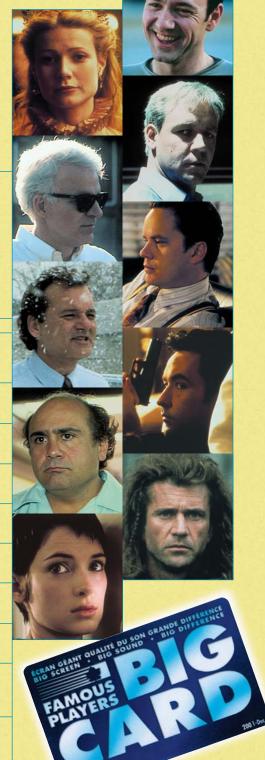
# Whose sit, sanyway.

Here are quotes from 10 hit movies — all of which were released in the past 15 years. For each quote, **name the movie it came from and the actor who delivered the line**. Easy, n'est-ce pas? And to make it even easier, we've included photos from each of the films.

All correct entries will be entered in a draw for a Famous Players Big Card, which gives you and a guest free admission to all Famous Players theatres for an entire year.

0	QUOTE	TI T	A	C	T	0	R	М	0	V	1	E	
	"I'm just a commodity to you, aren't I? I could be anything, right? Anything worth putting on between commercials."									Ě			
	"No, no. Psychopaths kill for no reason. I kill for money. It's a job."												
	"I came home to raise crops and, God willing, a family. If I can live in peace, I will."												
	"I'll have a half double decaffeinated half-caf, with a twist of lemon."												
	"Well, what if there is no tomorrow? There wasn't one today."			Ř									
	"I would stay asleep my whole life, if I could dream myself into a company of players."												
	"The guy in the hat killed the other guy in the hat."												
	"How am I supposed to recover when I don't even understand my disease?"					.E							
	"This isn't life, it's just stuff. And it's become more important to you than living. Well, honey, that's just nuts."												
	"Can we talk about something other than Hollywood for a change? We're educated people."												

PHONE NUMBER



Send this page to:

Whose Line?, c/o Famous magazine, 102 Atlantic Ave., Suite 100, Toronto, Ontario, M6K 1X9 All entries must be postmarked no later than Oct. 15, 2001.

NAME	ADDRESS	
CITY	PROVINCE	POSTAL CODE

**EMAIL** 

## Film festival frenzy

o less than nine film festivals unspool across Canada this month starting with Toronto's behemoth and ending with a little eco-friendly affair back in Ontario's capital. But lest you think the country's most reviled city has cornered the market on celluloid celebrations, take note of the far-flung fests — in places like Sudbury, Calgary and Squamish — found in between.

**What: Toronto International Film Festival** 

When: September 6 to 15 Where: Toronto, Ont.

Why: So big-name celebrities can launch the slightly-more-subversive-than-usual pieces in their oeuvres in front of big, urban crowds, and briefly meet the press during assembly line interviews and press conferences.

For More info: 416.968.FILM or

www.e.bell.ca/filmfest

Where: Halifax, N.S.

What: Atlantic Film Festival When: September 14 to 22

Why: To show shorts and feature-length films from Canada and around the world, and host a series of schmoozy industry programs to help young filmmakers make contacts.

■ More info: 902.422.3456 or

www.atlanticfilm.com

What: Vancouver International Film Festival
When: September 27 to October 12

Where: Vancouver, B.C.

Why: The third largest film festival in Canada, after Toronto and Montreal, the Vancouver International Film Festival celebrates its 20th anniversary this year. More than 130,000 filmgoers are expected to attend the 440 screenings of 320 films from more than 50 countries. Once again, the festival's mainstays include the Dragons and Tigers series, which focuses on the cinema of East Asia and the Canadian Images program, which they claim is the largest showcase of Canadian features in the world.

More info: 604.685.0260 or www.viff.org



What: Antimatter Festival of Underground Short Film & Video

When: September 14 to 23 Where: Victoria, B.C.

Why: To provide a non-competitive forum for underground, imaginative and volatile works of short film and video.

■ More info: 250.385.3327 or www.antimatter.ws

What: Cinéfest Sudbury When: September 17 to 23 Where: Sudbury, Ont.

Why: So that residents of northern Ontario have an opportunity to see an eclectic array of domestic and international films.

■ More info: Toll-free 1.877.212.3222
or www.cinefest.com

What: Sea to Sky Film Festival

When: September 20 and 21 Where: Squamish, B.C.

Why: So area residents can catch high-calibre indie films, and to provide another venue for independent filmmakers to show their work.

■ More info: 604.898.5930 or http://sea-to-sky.net/filmfest

**What: Calgary International Film Festival** 

When: September 25 to 30 Where: Calgary, Alta.

Why: To put Calgary on the Canadian film industry map. They've doubled the number of screens from last year's debut.

■ More info: 403.283.1490 or www.calgaryfilm.com

**What: Student Shorts** 

When: September 27 to 29 Where: Toronto, Ont.

Why: To provide a forum for Canadian students taking film at public post-secondary institutions. This is the fest's inaugural year.

■ More info: 416.924.2008 or www.endless-films.com

What: Planet in Focus: Toronto Environmental Film & Video Festival

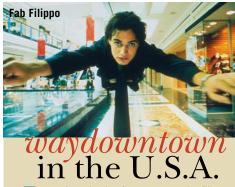
When: September 28 to 30 Where: Toronto, Ont.

**Why:** To "promote the use of film and video as catalysts for public awareness, discussion and appropriate action on the ecological and social health of the planet." So your popcorn *better* come in a recyclable container.

■ More info: 416.537.7742 or

www.planetinfocus.org

-MW



ven though they're not exactly "box office gold," people seem to like movies about offices, observes Calgary filmmaker Gary Burns, pointing to recent examples like Office Space, Clockwatchers and Fight Club. Maybe that's why his latest, the grim office comedy waydowntown, is doing what his two previous efforts didn't — being released in the U.S.

"Your work is your life," says a vacationing Burns on the phone from the U.K. "And no matter how much you try to separate them, it tends to be something that's hard to get out of your brain. The separation has been dissolving for years."

waydowntown played in Canadian theatres last year, starting with award-winning stops at film festivals in Vancouver and Toronto, and landed in Canuck video stores this past June. But, it's just now making its American debut in New York (Sept. 28 to be exact) and, later, will play in cities like L.A.. San Francisco and Boston.

The film follows four office drones — all of whom live and work in the interconnected tunnels and skyscrapers of downtown Calgary — who make a bet to see how long they can go without going outside. Fab Filippo (Action) heads up a cast that includes Marya Delver (Better than Chocolate) and Don McKellar (Last Night).

Burns, who debuted in 1995 with The Suburbanators, and followed with 1997's Kitchen Party, is already known for making comedies about the absurd hardships of middle-class life. His movies have been well-received by critics and festivals across the country and waydowntown was even nominated for a Best Director Genie award. He just wishes more Canadians would see home-grown movies.

"Canadians tend not to go to Canadian films," he laments. "There's a small percentage who embrace Canadian films but most just want to see Julia Roberts."

Perhaps he'll fare better with those Yanks. —SD

#### shorts

### Soap in Aniston's blood

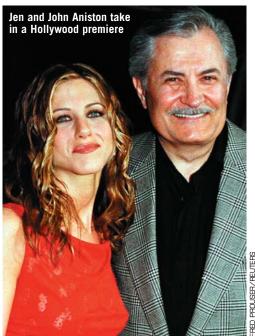
ou may remember hearing something about *Friends* star Jennifer Aniston being estranged from her mother, Nancy Aniston. She's been on the outs with her loose-lipped mom since Nancy talked to a tabloid TV show. Mom subsequently wrote a book about her own history (the former actress and model was abandoned by her own maternal unit) and how difficult it is not to have lil' Jennifer in her life. Mom wasn't even invited to the wedding of the century — okay, the wedding of July 2000 — when Jennifer got hitched to blond bombshell (and fairly decent actor when he wants to be) Brad Pitt.

But did you know that Jen's father is John Aniston? Who is John Aniston, you ask. You may know him better as Victor Kiriakis, the mustachioed Greek business mogul from the long-running soap *Days of Our Lives*. That's right, although the pair look nothing alike, Jennifer's roots run all the way back to Salem where papa spent much of the past two decades as the

resident villain, alternating between drug lord, kidnapper and extortionist. Although, to be fair, old Vic did soften in his later years, attempting to become a legitimate business man à la *Godfather*'s Michael Corleone.

John Aniston was born on the Greek island of Crete in 1937 and also put in stints on the soap operas *Search for Tomorrow* and *Love of Life*. The family's real last name was Anastassakis, but was gentrified when they made the move to the States. Jennifer, however, still embraces her Greek heritage, evident at her wedding when guests shattered plates Greek-style and danced to bouzouki music. And yes, although mom wasn't invited, dad was there to walk his radiant daughter down the celeb-lined aisle.

You can see whether Jennifer has the acting chops to survive without her "friends" this month, when she plays Mark Wahlberg's girlfriend in the new heavy metal flick *Rock Star*.



## now in theatres

PLAY HARDBALL, GET INTO BIG TROUBLE OR TAKE A JOY RIDE



#### AUGUST 31

#### **GLITTER**

Who's In It? Mariah Carey, Max Beesley Who Directed? Vondie Curtis-Hall (Gridlock'd) What's It About? Pop sensation Carey plays what she knows in this movie about a wannabe singer from the projects who finds love and fame in the club scene of 1980s New York.

#### **JEEPERS CREEPERS**

Who's In It? Justin Long, Gina Philips
Who Directed? Victor Salva (Powder)
What's It About? On a road trip from college, a
brother and sister are chased across the country
by a nightmarish creature they find living in
the basement of a church.

#### SEPTEMBER 7

#### **HEIST**

Who's In It? Gene Hackman, Danny DeVito Who Directed? David Mamet (State & Main) What's It About? Pulitzer winner and Oscar also-ran Mamet directs a gritty crime story about a gang of professional crooks out to pull off "just one last" robbery.

#### TWO CAN PLAY THAT GAME

Who's In It? Vivica A. Fox, Morris Chestnut
Who Directed? Mark Brown (debut)
What's It About? When her boyfriend sleeps
with her arch-rival, a woman (Fox) launches a
10-day mission to teach her man some loyalty.

#### THE MUSKETEER

Who's In It? Justin Chambers, Catherine Deneuve Who Directed? Peter Hyams (End of Days) What's It About? In 17th-century France, the fourth, and often overlooked, musketeer D'Artagnan seeks revenge against the men who murdered his parents.

#### THE GLASS HOUSE

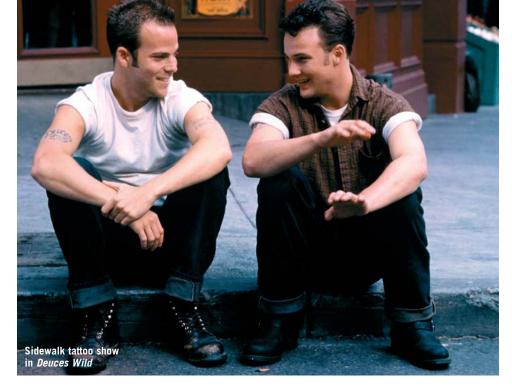
Who's In It? Leelee Sobieski, Trevor Morgan Who Directed? Daniel Sackheim (debut)

What's It About? Two teens (Sobieski, Morgan) who were orphaned when their parents were killed in a car wreck are quickly adopted by a couple (Diane Lane, Stellan Skarsgard) living in Malibu. The problem? It seems the new parents might have had something to do with that car crash that offed mom and dad. See Leelee Sobieski interview, page 28.

#### SEPTEMBER 14

#### **HARDBALL**

Who's In It? Keanu Reeves, Diane Lane Who Directed? Brian Robbins (Varsity Blues) What's It About? Reeves plays Conor O'Neill, a down-on-his-luck gambler with debts to pay and nothing to pay them with — until, that is, his friend offers to help him out with the cash. But there's a catch. Conor has to coach a Little League baseball team in Chicago's notorious Cabrini Green neighbourhood. Lane steps in as a teacher who helps Conor see the light. See Keanu Reeves interview, page 32.



#### **ROCK STAR**

Who's In It? Mark Wahlberg, Jennifer Aniston Who Directed? Stephen Herek (Bill & Ted's Excellent Adventure)

What's It About? All you Judas Priest fans will recognize this comedy as a loose retelling of how that band got its new singer back in 1996. When the frontman of a heavy metal band suddenly quits, the head head-banger from a tribute band (Wahlberg) is tapped to replace him. Aniston of Friends co-stars as the girlfriend. See Mark Wahlberg interview, page TK.

#### **DEUCES WILD**

Who's In It? Fairuza Balk, Matt Dillon Who Directed? Scott Kalvert (The Basketball Diaries)

What's It About? Described as "West Side Story without the music," Deuces Wild tells the story of teen street gangs and star-crossed love in 1950s Brooklyn. Balk plays the leader of a tough all-girl gang who falls for the alpha male of a rival gang. Expect switchblades, poodle skirts and Brill-Creem.

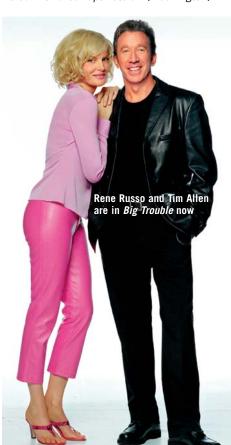
#### SEPTEMBER 21

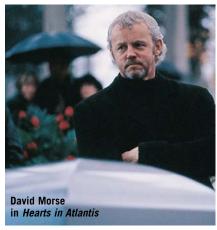
#### **BIG TROUBLE**

Who's In It? Tim Allen, Janeane Garofalo Who Directed? Barry Sonnenfeld (Wild Wild West) What's It About? Based on the chaotic debut novel by syndicated columnist Dave Barry, this ensemble piece shows how a nuclear bomb hidden in a suitcase changes the lives of 10 strangers. Joining Allen and Garofalo on screen are Tom Sizemore, Rene Russo, Seinfeld's Patrick Warburton, former talk-show sidekick Andy Richter and MTV's crash test dummy Johnny Knoxville.

#### TRAINING DAY

Who's In It? Denzel Washington, Ethan Hawke Who Directed? Antoine Fuqua (Bait)
What's It About? It's the first day on the job for a rookie cop (Hawke) who's been assigned to the Los Angeles narcotics unit and gets partnered with a corrupt veteran (Washington).





#### **JOY RIDE**

Who's In It? Leelee Sobieski, Paul Walker Who Directed? John Dahl (Rounders) What's It About? Two brothers (Walker and Steve Zahn) on a road trip to Colorado make the mistake of playing a practical joke on a trucker who turns out to be a deranged killer. And now he wants revenge. Along the way they pick up Sobieski, who plays Walker's long-time unrequited love. See Leelee Sobieski interview, page 28.

#### WAKIN' UP IN RENO

**Who's In It?** Billy Bob Thornton, Charlize Theron

Who Directed? Jordan Brady (Dill Scallion)
What's It About? A road trip to a Nevada monster
truck show turns ugly for two redneck couples
when someone starts sleeping around.

#### **ZOOLANDER**

Who's In It? Ben Stiller, Owen Wilson Who Directed? Ben Stiller (The Cable Guy) What's It About? The Manchurian Candidate meets Prêt-à-Porter. A vacuous male model (Stiller) on the verge of becoming a has-been is recruited by two rogue CIA operatives and brainwashed to assassinate the president of Malaysia. Watch for cameos by Lenny Kravitz, Fabio and David Bowie.

#### **HEARTS IN ATLANTIS**

Who's In It? Anthony Hopkins, David Morse Who Directed? Scott Hicks (Shine)
What's It About? A fatherless boy (Anton Yelchin) is befriended by a delusional old man (Hopkins) who believes he's being stalked by sinister forces. David Morse (The Green Mile) plays the boy's adult self. Based on a five-part series by Stephen King.

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

check www.famousplayers.com for showtimes and locations

## now appe

#### **BIG TROUBLE**





#### JANEANE GAROFALO

Now appearing in... Big Trouble with Tim Allen, Omar Epps and Zooey Deschanel. Garofalo plays a cop in the ensemble comedy about how a bomb hidden in a suitcase changes the lives of 10 strangers.

**Bio bits:** Outspoken, acerbic and un-Hollywood, Janeane Garofalo has earned armies of fans for her many TV and movie roles, despite stormy relationships with studios, co-stars and the L.A. celebrity machine.

Born on September 28, 1964, in Newton, New Jersey, Garofalo moved to Houston during high school. The class clown, she spent most of her teen years watching Letterman, SCTV, and memorizing the routines of comics like Steve Martin and Cheech and Chong.

She didn't start performing until her senior year at Providence College in Rhode Island when she took to the stage at an open-mic night — later winning the dubious honour of Funniest Person in Rhode Island at a comedy festival. After college (ignoring her mom's pleas that she stay out of show biz and get a job at Bloomingdale's) Garofalo packed up and moved to Boston — where she paid the bills as a shoe salesperson, bike courier, theatre usher and chat-line host while playing to college crowds at the city's many bars and clubs.

Talent agent Jimmy Miller, brother of comic Dennis Miller, encouraged Garofalo to move, yet again, to Los Angeles. But her caustic humour didn't fly with West Coast audiences and her career floundered until a second agent, big-shot Rick Messina, got her some regular TV work on offbeat programs like MTV's Half-Hour Comedy Show.

Her two big breaks came in 1992, when she ran into actor/writer/director Ben Stiller at a deli, and was offered a part on his Fox series. The show died a quick death, but while working on Stiller she met comic Gary Shandling who offered her a role as an overworked talent booker on his new outing The Larry Sanders Show. Garofalo also got a part in Stiller's Gen X-ploitative comedy Reality Bites and — in a

gruff "best friend" role — stole the show from 90-lb weakling Winona Ryder.

The movie was a hit, even though Garofalo openly mocked it on Letterman and took a swing at studio heads for forcing her to lose weight. That same year she was hired for a brief but disastrous stint on Saturday Night Live — leaving halfway through the 1994/95 season because of what she described as rampant sexism on the set.

Sample roles: Minnie in Rocky & Bullwinkle (2000), Anita Hoffman in Steal this Movie (2000), The Bowler in Mystery Men (1999), Ellie in 200 Cigarettes (1999), Shelby in Clay Pigeons (1998), Jeri in Dog Park (1998), Marci in The Matchmaker (1997), Abby in The Truth About Cats & Dogs (1996), Vickie in Reality Bites (1994)

Love life: Divorced from TV writer Rob Cohen.

Awards: Twice nominated for an Emmy (1996, 1997) for her role as Paula on The Larry Sanders Show.

On SNL: "One of the worst experiences I've ever had. One of the worst things for my ego, for my self-esteem, for my person. I have yet to figure out what the gain in that was. I don't know what the point of that suffering was. If they had their druthers over at SNL, there would be no women at all." — Bust, Spring 1996

#### **MILLA JOVOVICH**

Now appearing in...Zoolander, about a vacuous male model (Ben Stiller) who is recruited by a CIA agent to assassinate the president of Malaysia. Jovovich plays Katinka, the mysterious dominatrix assigned to brainwash the shallow pretty boy.

Bio bits: When an 11-year-old Milla Jovovich was first introduced to the fashion world in the late '80s, she was promoted as an exotic Soviet Lolita. But the truth is, although she was born in Kiev, Ukraine, on December 17, 1975, by the time she was five little Milla was already living in Sacramento, California. She did, however, have to defend herself against schoolmates' accusations that she was a "communist spy."

Milla's parents, famous Russian stage actress Gallina Loginova and Bogie Jovovich, a Yugoslavian pediatrician, divorced soon after the move and Milla was raised primarily by her mom, who wanted Milla to pick up where her own acting career had ended with the move to the States. Milla reluctantly agreed, enrolling in her first acting class at age nine. The next year she signed with a modeling agency and the year after that she made her first movie, a Disney made-for-TV deal called The Night Train to Kathmandu. But it was as the scantily clad Lilli in 1991's erotic beach flick Return to the Blue Lagoon that a barely teenaged Milla swam her way into a slightly uncomfortable corner of the North American psyche by straddling the thin line between child and sex goddess.

Over the next few years Jovovich scored roles in critically acclaimed films like 1992's Chaplin, in which she played one of the Little Tramp's many wives and 1993's Dazed and Confused, as a guitar-playing stoner. Although she was just 17, she married her Dazed co-star Shawn Andrews — a union that lasted all of two months before her mother had the whole thing annulled. Then, while making the 1997 sci-fi The Fifth Element she fell in love with director Luc Besson (then in his late 30s) and the pair married. Unfortunately, they separated before their second venture together, 1999's The Messenger: The Story of Joan of Arc, hit theatres.

Love life: After the two failed marriages she had a seven-month affair with Red Hot Chili

## aring in

Peppers' guitarist John Frusciante, which ended earlier this year.

Sample roles: Eloise in The Million Dollar Hotel (2001), Joan of Arc in The Messenger: The Story of Joan of Arc (1999), Dakota in He Got Game (1998), Leeloo in The Fifth Element (1997), Michelle in Dazed and Confused (1993), Mildred in Chaplin (1992), Lilli in Return to the Blue Lagoon (1991), Samantha in Two Moon Junction (1988)

Interesting tidbits: She released a CD titled The Divine Comedy in 1994. • Her father was found guilty of masterminding a health insurance scam in 1994 and sentenced to 20 years in jail, but was released a couple of years ago.

On Zoolander: "I've read scripts that make fun of the modeling world before, but this one is really on the nose. I haven't been able to look at a modeling job the same way since. Personally, I don't find it frustrating that most people think models are stupid. If I weren't a model myself, I'd think the same way."

— *Vogue*, March 2001



#### ETHAN HAWKE

Now appearing in... Training Day with Denzel Washington and Tom Berenger. Hawke stars as a rookie cop partnered with a corrupt veteran (Washington) on the LAPD narcotics unit.

Bio bits: Poseur or Renaissance man? Ethan Hawke has written a book, directed a movie, run a New York theatre company and, in his many film roles, tackled Shakespeare, Dickens and just about every name poet in the English language.

all-purpose artist.

But his novel The Hottest
State was savaged by critics, the
Malaparte troupe went bust and his movies,
with only a few exceptions, have been an
uneasy mix of poorly received indie projects.
Detractors call him a faux bohemian dilettante while fans see him as a misunderstood

Hawke's parents were just teenagers when he was born in Austin, Texas on November 6, 1970. They divorced soon after and he spent the next seven years following his rootless young mom from one temporary home to the next — living briefly in Connecticut, Vermont, Brooklyn and Georgia — before she eventually remarried and settled in New Jersey.

It was his stepfather who encouraged him to experiment with the arts and, while in high school, Hawke started taking acting lessons at Princeton's McCarter Theater. He made his stage debut at 13 in a production of St. Joan and, just one year later, went straight into a starring role in the 1985 movie Explorers. A sci-fi about three kids who build a spaceship, Explorers also marked the big-screen debut of River Phoenix, and the teen actors became good friends.

But Hawke didn't want his career to interfere with school, so movies were put on hold while he finished high school, took a jaunt around Europe and enrolled at Carnegie-Mellon to study drama. But college life didn't agree with Hawke. He was kicked out of his very first class and dropped out two months later when he was suddenly offered a part alongside Robin Williams in the comic drama Dead Poets Society.

Hawke's role as a poetry-spouting schoolboy



TRAINING DAY

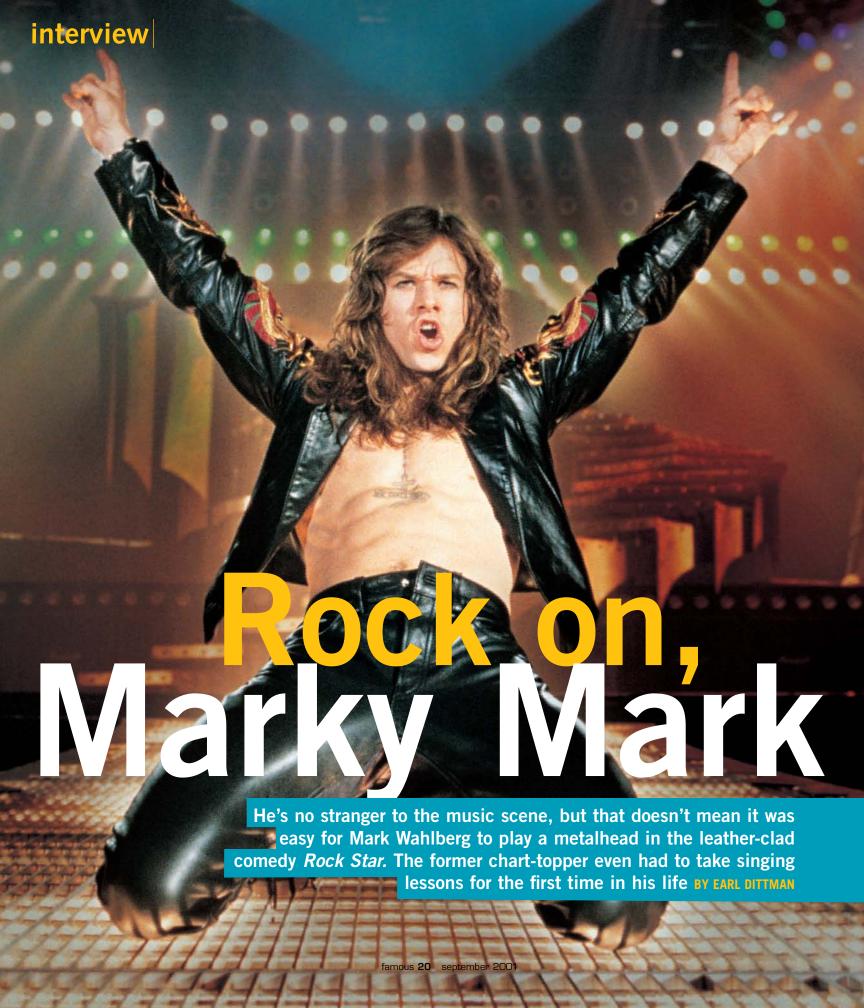
("O Captain, my Captain") established his image as a passionate artistic type and was followed, after many smaller movies, by his equally iconic turn as the jaded but well-read slacker who woos Winona Ryder in Reality Bites. Since then he's continued to make Hollywood and independent films and made his directorial debut earlier this year with the all-digital movie Chelsea Walls.

Sample roles: Hamlet in Hamlet (2000), Ishmael in Snow Falling on Cedars (1999), Len in Joe the King (1999), Nat in The Velocity of Gary (1998), Jess in The Newton Boys (1998), Finnegan in Great Expecations (1998), Vincent in Gattaca (1997), Jesse in Before Sunrise (1995), Troy in Reality Bites (1994), Nando in Alive (1993), Jack in White Fang (1991), Todd in Dead Poets Society (1989)

Love life: Married Uma Thurman in May 1998. Their daughter, Maya Ray, just turned three and they're expecting their second child next January.

Interesting tidbits: Named his cat Mardou, after the character in Jack Keruoac's The Subterraneans.

On the stage: "These people in the theatre company f-cking make me feel alive. It's not about interviews and fame and millions of dollars. It's generated out of a desire to get something off your chest." — Rolling Stone, March 1995



ark Wahlberg knows a thing or two about living life as a pop star. Long before he began getting rave reviews for his performances in *Boogie Nights, Three Kings* and *The Perfect Storm,* Wahlberg dominated music charts around the world as the rapping, trouser-dropping, Calvin Klein undie-wearing leader of the hip-hop posse Marky Mark and The Funky Bunch. In the early '90s, top-ten singles, gold albums and sold-out concerts were the order of the day for the Roxbury, Massachusetts high school drop-out.

So when it was announced that Wahlberg had been cast as the lead singer of a platinum-plated heavy metal group in *Rock Star*, most believed the former teen idol had found a role he could perform with his eyes closed.



## "It was complete torture having someone else's hair flying in your mouth and in your food all the time," says Wahlberg. "Yuck, I hated it. It was a long six months"

Everyone, that is, except for the actor himself.

"Sure, I know what being a nobody who becomes an overnight star, and what performing for thousands of people a night, feels like. But that's where the similarities to my own life end," the 30-year-old says. "You see, I was a rapper, not a singer. And most of my fans were young girls, not male metalheads. So, not even taking into account all the emotional things my character goes through, I was walking blindly into a whole new world."

Co-starring Jennifer Aniston as Wahlberg's girlfriend/manager — and a spate of real-life rockers like Jason Bonham (son of Led Zeppelin drummer John Bonham), The Verve Pipe's Brian Van Der Ark and Dokken's Jeff Pilson — *Rock Star* is loosely based on the true story of Tim "Ripper" Owens, a salesman and singer for a Judas Priest tribute band, who was recruited to perform lead vocals for the legendary British group when their longtime singer exited in 1996.

Wahlberg had just finished shooting the George Clooney-produced pic when he sat down — already shorn of his rocker hair — to talk about playing a heavy metal god.

#### [Q] Describe Chris "Izzy" Coles, your *Rock Star* character.

[A] "He's just a normal guy who finds himself in the middle of a pretty extraordinary situation. He's from Pittsburgh and is the lead singer in a tribute band. He still lives in his parents' house and steals his mom's makeup to perform on stage. But when he becomes the lead singer of this real, successful band, he is thrust into the spotlight and into the life of sex, drugs and rock 'n' roll. But there's a real moral to the story. At the end, it's really about him trying to find his own voice, because he's been this guy's clone for 29 years."

[Q] You had to wear hair extensions the whole time you were shooting. Was getting a haircut a liberating experience for you when the film finally wrapped?

[A] "Oh, God, yeah. You have no idea. It was complete torture having someone else's hair flying in your mouth and in your food all the time. Yuck, I hated it. It was a long six months."

[Q] Are you planning to sell the hair on eBay?

[A] "No, we're not selling the hair. But, speaking of auctions, they did sell the boat

from *The Perfect Storm...*. But that was cool with me because all the money went to The Perfect Storm Foundation. I mean, it's not like Warner Brothers needs the money or anything."

[Q] You and Jennifer Aniston have some pretty hot love scenes in the film.

[A] "Yes, we do [laughs]. That's all I have to say about them, though."

[Q] The reason I ask is that the tabloids ran stories claiming the two of you became so close during those scenes that it looked like you might be trying to steal her away from hubby Brad Pitt.

[A] "That whole story was so ridiculous. Brad is a nice guy, and I consider him a friend of mine. Nothing happened. I don't know where that story came from. The way I look at stories like that is they're just about filling in the blanks on a page. I just ignore them. They're too silly to even get upset over."

#### [Q] Do any of your family members believe what they read about you in the tabloids?

[A] "Oh, God, yes. And my mother is the worst. She actually reads the tabloids — religiously. So, she's like, "I read in the paper that you stole Brad Pitt's girlfriend. What the hell is that about?' I'm like, 'Mom, what are you talking about?' She's like, 'Don't play innocent with me, I read it in the paper.' So, I asked her, 'What paper, mom?' Then she tells me it was *The National Enquirer*. That's when I told her, 'Wait a minute mom, you're reading the wrong papers!' It's crazy when your own mom thinks she knows about your love life because of what the tabloids print. Now that kind of bothers me."



[Q] I can't imagine you have many problems with the ladies.

[A] "I've got some problems, believe me [laughs]. I don't think anyone is perfect. If I was, I'd be married with kids. I'm happy, I have my own girlfriend, so I'm not trying to take anyone else's."

[Q] Plus, Brad might try to beat you up if you stole Jennifer away from him.

[A] "That's cool. He can surely give it a shot [laughs]."

[Q] Is your girlfriend in show business?

[A] "Yes and no."

[Q] Care to elaborate?

[A] "No, let's just leave it at that."

[Q] How old were you when you realized that the press could be your best friend or worst enemy?

[A] "Pretty early on. I think I do a pretty decent job of learning from other people's mistakes. I pay attention a lot. I did that with my brother Donnie in watching his career with the New Kids On The Block. Also, you have guys like my friend George Clooney, who have so much experience in that field, and they are quick to give you advice. So, basically, you see from other people's careers what to do and what not to do."

[Q] Okay, let's get back to *Rock Star*. Since you had an incredibly successful music career as Marky Mark, doing the concert scenes for the film must have been easy.

[A] "You would think, but they were tough — and scary! We performed a concert at the Sports Arena for 15,000 to 20,000 people [to film the on-stage footage], opening for Great White. And here I am thinking it's going to be all Marky Mark fans in the audience. I kept telling myself, 'It will be fine. I don't have anything to worry about. People aren't going to throw bottles at me.' But when I look out into the audience, I realize it's all hardcore heavy metal fans. I mean, they still had their WASP 1984 tour T-shirts on. It was crazy. I thought I was doomed, but they loved the show."

#### [Q] Did you have to do a lot of research or preparation?

[A] "I think I had to do more preparation than on any other film I'd ever done.... I had to learn how to sing. I had to take six months of singing lessons and guitar lessons and working on my bad English accent. It was tough. I guess I should have taken those vocal lessons when [producer/manager] Maurice Starr offered them to me when he wanted me to join New Kids [laughs]."

[Q] It's hard to believe you gave up the chance to be in such a pop phenomenon like New Kids On The Block. Why did you pass?

[A] "Because I was adamant about doing my own thing. I was about 12 or 13 when I was approached by Maurice at a talent show at the Lee School in Roxbury. He asked me if I wanted to make a rap record, and I did, so

I got my brother Donnie involved and we started to record. Then Maurice started up with the whole, 'Let's take some singing lessons and do one love song, and find a couple more guys' spiel. That's when I decided to bow out and do my own thing."

### [Q] Since you've been through the whole music business game, what's the best advice you would give an up-and-coming singer?

[A] "Probably, more than anything, I'd say, 'Save your money! Because you're in a position where someone else is always going to come along and replace you.' That's just the nature of the game. Their own record companies and their own management companies are actually searching for these people right now. It's just how it is. But you can't focus on that."

[Q] Unlike many music superstars, though, you've been able to make the transition into the world of motion pictures with relative ease. What would you tell other performers if they said they wanted to make movies too?

[A] "I don't know because it's different for everybody. Looking back, it seems impossible that I would have gained the amount of respect and success that I have in the film industry."

#### [Q] Honestly, are you really surprised you've been able to make it in films?

[A] "Most definitely. Looking back, it's like, 'How in the hell did I do that?' It's only because I didn't pay attention to all the negative talk, and I didn't try to conquer the world in a day. Some people have tried to, and I think that's why they have fallen short...not to mention any Madonna names [laughs]. Someone just told me she said something mean about me, so I'm just getting her back. But, no, I love Madonna, I really do. I have her new album in my car right now."

[Q] Tim Burton, who directed you in *Planet of the Apes*, said what makes you such a good actor is your ability to always appear natural on screen. He said your humanity always shines through, no matter the situation.

[A] "Well, that's nice of him to say. But I was in a movie with a bunch of apes, so it wasn't that hard for my human side to show through [laughs]. That part of the role was easy." •

Earl Dittman is an entertainment journalist based in Houston, Texas. He also interviewed Keanu Reeves for this issue of Famous.

style

1. 18k gold all-bead ball ring with rubies, \$1,860 2. 22k gold full flattened metal bracelet with ruby, \$6,650 3. 18k gold six-tier petal necklace, \$9,150 All prices in U.S. dollars





## ACCESSORIZ

### Jeanne Beker talks to jewellery artists Me & Ro about gilding the stars with meaningful mottos



ve never been a fan of "big," gaudy jewellery, but there's something to be said for pieces which go beyond mere adornment and take on personal meaning in our lives — pieces that can act as touchstones for sentiment, faith, love and spirit. I have a

small collection of these pieces that I treasure. There's a delicate, cylindrical silver pendant inscribed with the words "Faith ties the heart." I bought that for myself shortly after my heart was broken and I thought I might never find love again. Another piece I cherish is a simple silver bracelet with Chinese writing on the outside. The translation inside reads "The dragon is flying in the sky." I was born in the Year of the Dragon and that little bracelet always serves to remind me of my own personal power.

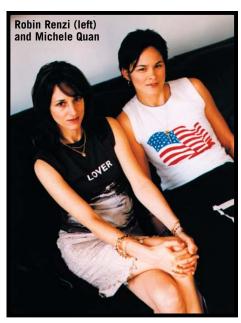
Both pieces were created by the hot New York design team Me & Ro — Michele Quan, a former model from Vancouver and former dancer Robin Renzi. They met in 1986, while working at the trendy N.Y. eatery Indochine and, in 1991, started their

jewellery business in Michele's Soho apartment. Today, their unique jewellery is worn by some of the hottest names in Hollywood — Julia Roberts even wore a pair of Me & Ro earrings the night she won her Oscar.

Jeanne: You push the perimeters of fashion by giving your customers the "added value" of spiritual messages like "The dragon is flying in the sky" or "Faith ties the heart." Why this type of message? Michele: The two passages you mentioned are from the *I Ching*, a Chinese book of oracles. In reading books you find passages that are so inspiring and moving that you want to share them. We choose ones that we know will be universal for all and yet transcend the usual emotional clichés. Words are so powerful, they can be clear and straightforward or metaphorical, like poetry. People infuse their own meaning into them.

Jeanne: There's a strong Eastern influence in many of your pieces, yet it isn't a culture you grew up with. Why the fascination?

Robin: "The grass is always greener on the other side" sort of thing. I love the cultures of India and Tibet and Asia...they are so myste-



rious and beautiful and very different from ours. It is much easier sometimes to learn from something that is so foreign to you.

Jeanne: What sort of role would you like to see your pieces play in people's lives?

Michele: I want people to *wear* these pieces. Nothing saddens me more than the idea





4. Julia Roberts wears Me & Ro necklaces in The Mexican 5. Assorted rings in 18k gold, \$550 to \$1,610 6. 18k gold all-bead hoop earrings with rubies, \$1,560 All prices in U.S. dollars

## E YOUR SPIRIT

that someone buys it, throws it in a box, and then goes on to buy something else.

Jeanne: Who was the first celebrity who wore your designs?

Michele: Marisa Tomei was introduced to our jewellery through mutual friends. I remember that she loved the very feminine and delicate pieces — small heart rings and tiny gold bands with silver balls. Eight years later she came to our store opening on Elizabeth Street in New York.

#### Jeanne: How did your celebrity clientele grow? And is it important to your business?

Robin: I think when someone like Julia Roberts or Gwyneth Paltrow is seen wearing any specific designer, everyone stands up and takes notice. They admire their style and want to emulate it. Of course it's great exposure! What's important to me though is how generous and supportive our celebrity clients have been. They know the power they have with the media and how much it helps designers, and it is touching that they care so much.

One Saturday afternoon Michele and I were at our studio, working, and the doorman called up asking if we had a jewellery store. The next thing we knew Julia Roberts was on her way up! She had gotten a gift

from her yoga teacher, who's a friend of ours...and she was out shopping with some friends and wanted to find these two girls who made jewellery. We showed her all our jewellery and a few days later she came back and said she had a great idea: She was going to wear our jewellery in the movie *Notting Hill.* Since then she has worn it to the Oscars, in magazines, interviews and the movie *The Mexican*.

Michele: Also, celebrities come to our store — Meg Ryan, Rita Wilson and Tom Hanks, Dustin Hoffman, Mary J. Blige, James Gandolfini. Gwyneth Paltrow is a regular customer.... She came to the studio to buy a platinum band engraved in Sanskrit with a verse from the Bhagavad-Gita, which she'd seen in a store in Vancouver called Chachkas.

Jeanne: Can you describe the earrings Julia Roberts wore to the Oscars?

Michele: Platinum with Indian rose-cut diamonds. They have a 4mm diamond hanging from a 5mm diamond. Very simple and classic, very much what Julia likes to wear. We made them solely with her in mind.

Jeanne: Are they going to be available to the public as part of your regular collection?

Michele: The earrings we made for Julia

Roberts were a jump-start on a collection built around Indian rose-cut diamonds, which we both love. Robin first found them in India a few years ago, they were used in Old Indian jewellery, they have this very brilliant, clear and natural — but still very sparkly — feeling to them.

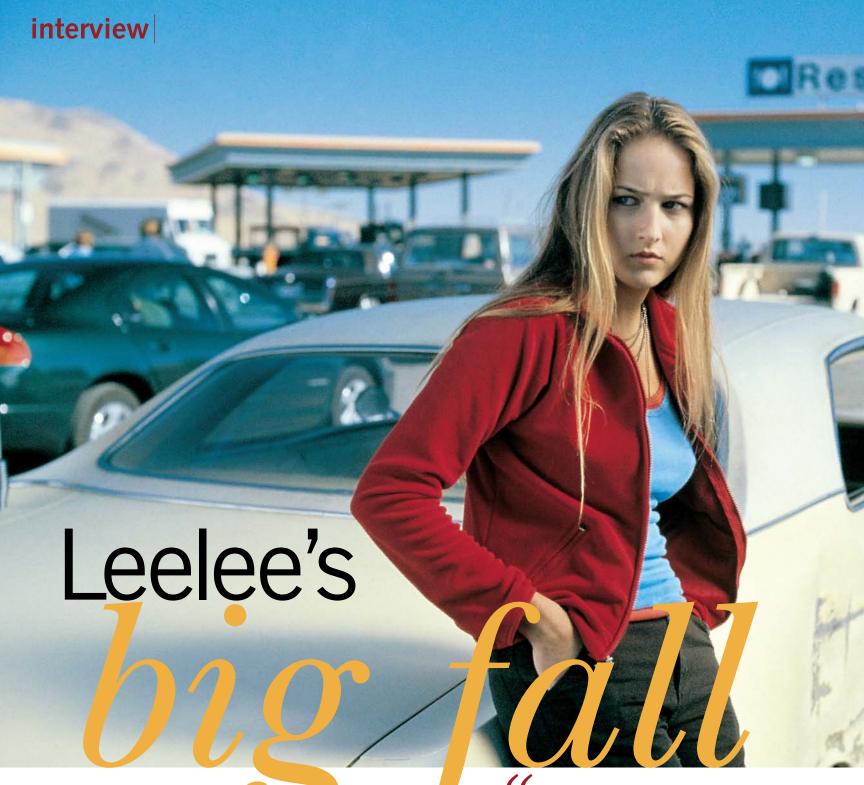
Jeanne: Do you often hear about people finding solace or inspiration in your pieces?

Robin: There are so many stories. We have a friend who's a photographer. His wife's father had just passed away and they were going to the funeral. They bought 12 tiny gold Buddha pendants, one for each of the children and their spouses, and one to put in the casket. We were very moved to have our jewellery be such a part of their ritual.

Jeanne: What's your design philosophy?
Robin: Beautiful, meaningful adornment.
Michele: I love the wearablility of jewellery.
You design for the body but also for the mind.

For more on Me & Ro, visit their website at www.meandrojewelry.com.

Jeanne Beker is the host of Fashion Television, a syndicated columnist and author of Jeanne Unbottled: Adventures in High Style.



WITH ROLES IN THREE FILMS THIS AUTUMN —
THE GLASS HOUSE, JOY RIDE AND
MY FIRST MISTER — WILL LEELEE SOBIESKI
PROVE SHE CAN STAND OUT FROM HOLLYWOOD'S
BUMPER CROP OF YOUNG BLOND ACTRESSES?

BY STEPHEN SCHAEFER

"'m getting ready for everybody to hate me now," declares Leelee Sobieski, the 19-year-old star of three movies coming out this fall. "Everyone's been so nice — and so I'm ready for a big bashing. It will happen sometime soon."

Sobieski may be talking about the backlash that often follows sudden fame like hers, but being bashed, and worse, is the life-or-death dilemma she faces in the



two of those three films hitting theatres this month — The Glass House, in which she and co-star Trevor Morgan play teens dodging murderous adoptive parents and *Joy Ride*, a thriller about road rage taken to

First up is Glass House, in which Sobieski plays an orphan who, along with her younger brother Rhett (Morgan), is taken in by her dead parents' good friends, Erin and Terry Glass (Diane Lane and Stellan Skarsgard).

"It's set in Malibu. The glass house is kind of what you see through, and the people you thought were really nice, aren't," Sobieski explains over the phone from her L.A. home. What promises to be a safe refuge for Ruby and Rhett soon turns into a paranoid nightmare as Ruby realizes the couple are hardly the caring friends they claim to be. "I hope this will be like Rosemary's Baby, only no devil and no baby," Sobieski says with a laugh.

Okaaaay. By that logic her next movie is Every Which Way But Loose, only no orangutan, no country singer and no Clint Eastwood. In Joy Ride, Sobieski is Venna, a sexy college co-ed and long-time unrequited love interest of Lewis (Paul Walker). It's summer break and the plan is for Lewis to pick Venna up in Colorado so they can go

on a road trip and have some fun. But first he has to pick up his hooligan brother Fuller (Steve Zahn), who's just been released from jail. Always the rabblerouser, Fuller talks Lewis into impersonating a woman and making a fake date with a trucker over

the CB radio. The trucker, however, turns out to be a vicious psychotic who doesn't find their little prank very amusing and follows the brothers to Colorado, where they hook up with Venna, and beyond.

Sobieski, who has played her share of dowdy characters, like teen soldier Joan of Arc in the TV miniseries (for which she earned an Emmy nomination) and a bright loner in the little-seen Merchant-Ivory tale A Soldier's Daughter Never Cries, says there was one thing that made Joy Ride, well, a joy. "It was great, because I am the Girl," Sobieski cheers. "You can't be any more the Girl, the Girl with the skirt who is the object of sexual desire, than in this."

Yet, while Leelee was the centre of Lewis's attention on-screen, behind the scenes she didn't get to socialize much with the other actors because she was always running off to study. "Since Paul and Steve are [playing] brothers, they hung out with each other, and I did my schoolwork in my trailer," she explains, "When I went back to the set, it was a different atmosphere. I sort of popped in and out." Having just graduated from high school this past June, the actor is looking forward to finally fitting in a bit more on set.

Born into an aristocratic and artistic Manhattan family as Liliane Rudabet Gloria Elsveta on June 10, 1982, Sobieski is a direct descendent of Poland's 17th-century monarch, King Jan Sobieski. (Lilane seemed too stodgy for a tot so she was nicknamed Leelee and it stuck.) Her American mother Elizabeth Salomon is a journalist-turned-screenwriter, and father Jean is a painter.

Leelee's journey to stardom began when her four-year-old brother Robie was recruited for a Gap Kids ad and subsequently got an agent. That agent also saw potential in Leelee. One of her earliest auditions was for the role of Claudia, the ageless child bloodsucker who teams with Tom Cruise and Brad Pitt in Interview with

> the Vampire. Although she lost that part to Kirsten Dunst, the experience was enough to stoke her interest in acting.

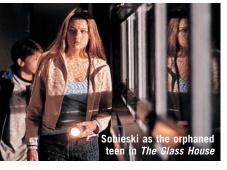
> When she was 11, Leelee got a role on a TV pilot, just about the same time her mother was shopping a screenplay around, so the whole

family picked up and moved to L.A. The TV series fell through, but Leelee segued into film work, getting roles like the jungle boy hero's sweetheart in the Tim Allen comedy Jungle 2 Jungle.

Then, a small, two-scene part as a teen nymphet bent on seducing much older men in Stanley Kubrick's Eyes Wide Shut showed that the barely pubescent actress (just 14 at the time) wasn't afraid to play the type of daring roles that would make primmer young thespians (yes, we're talking about you, Natalie Portman) recoil.

But while she might get a kick out of playing sex objects, the actress who once boasted she's probably the only real virgin to have played Joan of Arc insists she's not ready for a serious relationship, even if she did flirt with co-star Walker on the set of Joy Ride. "I teased Paul during filming but that's all. I've never fallen in love in my life," she admits. "I've had big crushes but I haven't been in love yet."

Sobieski will again cover that May-December ground in her third film due out this fall. My First Mister, with Albert Brooks,



#### interview

sees Leelee playing a rebellious goth high school student who finds an unlikely friend in a 49-year-old repressed store manager (Brooks). It's another sensual role, although the relationship between the two misfits only hints at romance without ever becoming overtly sexual.

Directed by former *Chicago Hope* actress Christine Lahti (her feature directing debut), *Mister* premiered at the Sundance festival last January and is scheduled for a limited theatrical release this November. "She directed a short, *Lieberman in Love*, which won an Academy Award [in 1995] so she knows what she's doing," Sobieski says of Lahti. "Most of the directors [I've worked with] have been good in the way they understood actors. You always interpret what the director says and adapt that. It worked fine with Christine."

Sobieski researched her role by visiting malls in her goth outfit — the sort of all-black ensemble popular with Marilyn Manson fans and the walking dead — complete with a short black wig that made her virtually unrecognizable. She was



shocked by the response she got from shoppers. "The reactions on people's faces were amazing. It wouldn't be fun if it were me in real life, but I was shocked. Cold stares. Little kids who would point to their parents and laugh at me. I would get so sad. I wanted to say, 'You're not a nice kid at all. You're a little brat.'"

On the other hand, while she was shooting a scene at California's famed Venice Beach, her goth look turned out to be

no disguise at all. "This guy comes over and goes, 'Oh my God! That's Leelee!' And I'm thinking, 'How did they recognize me?' I was shocked."

Maybe it was her height. She can't help but stand out in a crowd. Sobieski demurs. "I'm only five-ten." After the briefest pause, she continues, "There's this big obsession with my height of late. What about Geena [Davis] and Uma [Thurman] and Laura Dern and Christine Lahti and Famke Janssen? And Milla [Jovovich] is five-ten and Ingrid [Bergman] and Lauren [Bacall] were as well. Come on man, it doesn't matter. I'm pretty tall and I wear high heels."

Ultimately, despite her height and grown-up job, Sobieski still sees herself pretty much as a kid. "I'm like most teenagers, I get very influenced by whom I'm with. One day I'm two and the next day I'm 50, and it changes in minutes."

Perhaps that chameleon-like quality is why she's getting so many offers, and of such variety, all of a sudden — an orphan, a goth high school student and a sex object co-ed within three months.

"These parts just come this way. It's not, 'Now would be the time for me to play Queen Elizabeth,' although that would be nice," she says. "It's 'that's a good director,' 'that's an interesting character,' or, 'oh, it would be shot over the summer.' All the different things come together and then I try to choose different projects than what I've done before. You try to change to stay interested and reach different parts of yourself."

And now that she's finished high school, that summer thing doesn't matter so much.

Stephen Schaefer is a New York-based entertainment journalist. He interviewed Renée Zellweger for the April issue of Famous.

### **COMING SOON**

#### K-PAX DOCTOBER

Stars: Kevin Spacey, Jeff Bridges Director: Iain Softley (Hackers)

Story: The Spaceman finally plays a spaceman in one of those "is he, or isn't he?" films about a mental patient named Prot (Spacey) who claims to come from a distant planet. Bridges plays the psychiatrist who thinks Prot is simply suffering from multiple personality disorder, but starts to doubt his own diagnosis when the self-proclaimed alien from the planet K-PAX starts to have a peculiar effect on the institution's other patients. Interestingly, Bridges' character is named Dr. Gene Brewer, the same name as the novelist upon whose book the film is based.

#### Juwanna Man → OCTOBER

Stars: Miguel A. Nunez, Tommy Davidson

**Director: Jesse Vaughan (debut)** 

Story: Nunez plays a basketball star who's banned from the NBA because of inappropriate behaviour. But he loves the game so much that he concocts a scheme that will allow him to keep playing at a competitive level — dressing up like a woman and joining the WNBA. You just know there has to be a slapstick romantic subplot in there, and lo and behold there is. Vivica A. Fox plays the new teammate who nets our bad boy's heart.

#### From Hell POCTOBER

Stars: Johnny Depp, Ian Holm

**Directors:** Albert and Allen Hughes (*Dead Presidents*)

Story: Having recently played a police constable investigating a rash of mysterious deaths in 1999's *Sleepy Hollow*, Depp returns to familiar ground as a Scotland Yard investigator looking into the mysterious murders of several prostitutes in London's Whitechapel district during the Victorian era. If the words "Whitechapel," "prostitutes," and "Victorian era" haven't given you enough clues — yes, this is a retelling of the Jack the Ripper tale. Based on the novel by Alan Moore.

#### Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone **▶NOVEMBER**)

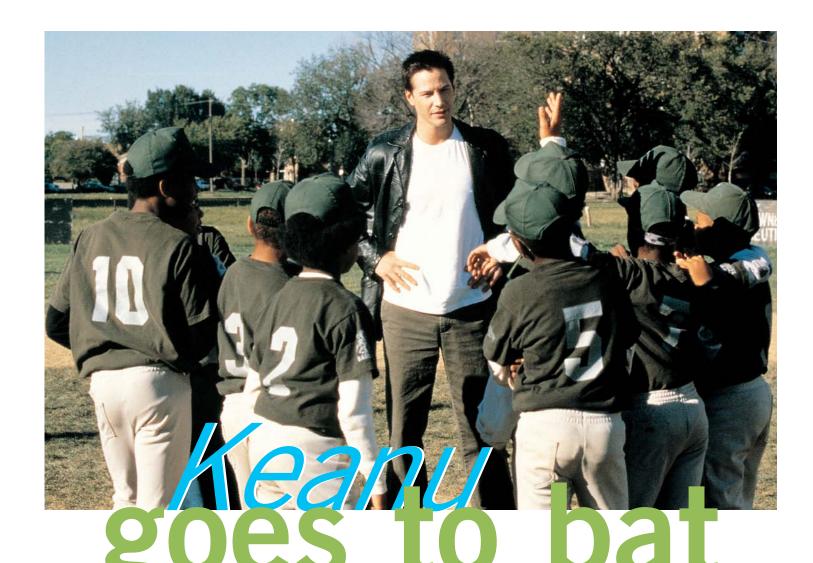
Stars: Daniel Radcliffe, Sean Biggerstaff
Director: Chris Columbus (*Bicentennial Man*)

Story: Based on the first of author J.K. Rowling's phenomenal books about a boy conjuror, this one follows Harry as he sets off to study at Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry. Little-known Radcliffe beat out thousands of miniature British thespians for the coveted lead role, but will be joined on screen by a bunch of English actors with more familiar faces, including Alan Rickman, Robbie Coltrane and John Hurt.

#### Ocean's Eleven **▶** DECEMBER

Stars: George Clooney, Julia Roberts Director: Stephen Soderbergh (*Traffic*)

Story: Julia Roberts and Stephen Soderbergh reunite for the first time since their triumphant *Erin Brockovich*. With luck that'll mean another inspired performance from Roberts. Based on the 1960 Rat Pack classic that starred Frank Sinatra and Sammy Davis Jr., *Ocean's Eleven* follows Danny Ocean (Clooney) and his crew of hoods who gather in Vegas to attempt the biggest casino heist ever. This is the set that spawned rumours of a romance between Roberts and Clooney. Then again, the same rumours (substitute Brad Pitt for Georgie-boy) abounded on the set of *The Mexican*, and proved fruitless.



The former Torontonian hopes his new movie, *Hardball*, will dispel some misconceptions about inner city kids

BY EARL DITTMAN

hicago's infamous Cabrini Green housing project and surrounding neighbourhood is hardly considered one of The Windy City's top tourist attractions. The supposedly gang-infested ghetto is rumoured to be so dangerous that even the police avoid it once night falls. But since the better part of Keanu Reeves' new film *Hardball* was filmed in and around Cabrini Green, the Toronto-bred actor discovered — quite by accident — the truth behind the inner-city community's menacing reputation.

During a break in filming, Reeves left the relative safety of the set to take a stress-

relieving walk — an eye-opening stroll which landed him smack-dab in the middle of the notorious housing project.

"I really wasn't paying attention to where I was going, and all of a sudden I found myself in front of Cabrini Green," a leather-jacketed Reeves recalls, while searching for a bottle of water in the minibar of his luxurious Manhattan hotel suite. "I had heard all the stories about how crime-ridden it was and that I would be taking my life in my hands by going there.... But I was completely taken by surprise by what I saw and experienced. Sure, it's not the nicest part of town, but everyone I encountered was

completely friendly. They were cool. I even got, 'Yo, Bill and Ted' quite a bit. So it made me realize you can't believe everything you hear. Hopefully, *Hardball* will change a lot of people's perception about America's inner cities and the people that live there. That walk sure changed my way of thinking."

Based on the true story from the Daniel Coyle book, *Hardball: A Season in the Projects*, the movie follows Reeves' character Conor O'Neill, a self-destructive, hard-drinking gambler in need of quick cash. His good friend Ticky (John Hawkes) agrees to loan him money on the condition that he coach

a Little League baseball team from the Cabrini Green projects. Conor resists at first, but when he realizes there's no other way to get the cash, he concedes. With the help of a caring teacher (Diane Lane) and the actions of a rival coach (D. B. Sweeney), Conor slowly begins to instill faith in his young players and, most importantly, regains belief in himself.

"I really wanted to do the movie because of the great message it sends," Reeves says. "It's about getting a second chance in life. I mean, here's a guy who is falling fast. He scalps tickets. He's a gambler. And he has to pay interest on a big gambling debt. So when his friend tells him that he'll give him \$500 a week to coach this team, he thinks it's a real pain to have to do it. But it's exactly what he needs to help put his life together. Although he doesn't know it at first, it's his second chance."

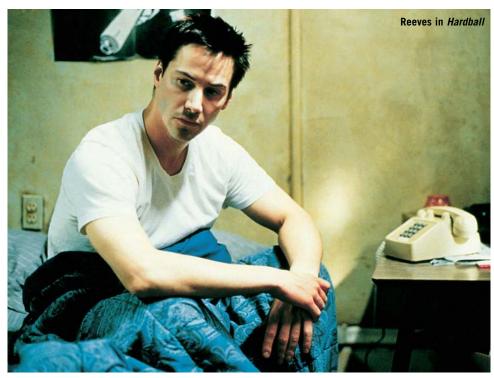
Surprisingly, even Reeves, the star of such blockbusters as The Matrix, Speed and Bill & Ted's Excellent Adventure confesses he's constantly in need of second chances.

"I've needed them both in work and in life," the 33-year-old candidly admits. "There have been times where I have needed to reassess my existence and decide on a new path.... You know, you retreat just to try to either cope or figure out where your life is at and where you want it to go."

And what an interesting life it's been. Shortly after his birth in Beirut, Lebanon in 1964, his parents divorced and his mother took Reeves and his sister Kim to New York City. While Keanu was still an infant, his mother married for a second time, prompting a move to Toronto, where Keanu lived for the next 18 years.

"Even though I've lived in a lot of different places, and I've led pretty much a nomad lifestyle, in my heart I will always consider Toronto home," Reeves says. "I have some really great memories of Toronto, especially Christmas ones. I can remember living on Avenue Road at Davenport and going to Rosedale Park on Christmas Day to do a little tobogganing, then coming back home all wet and bruised and eating again and being really happy. It was a great place to grow up."

An avid hockey player, by his early teens Reeves also took an interest in acting, and performing in school plays only heightened his desire to pursue it as a profession. He left school before graduation, and started landing high-profile stage roles at various Toronto theatres. In 1984, a critically acclaimed performance in the homoerotic



"I REALIZED THAT IF I WANTED TO MAKE A SERIOUS GO AT A FILM CAREER, I WOULD HAVE TO LIVE IN HOLLYWOOD. I WAS GETTING SOME GREAT WORK IN TORONTO, BUT YOU HAVE TO GO WHERE THE WORK IS," SAYS REEVES

Brad Fraser play Wolf Boy led to a minor role in the Rob Lowe hockey pic Youngblood. Bitten hard by the acting bug, Reeves made the difficult decision to leave his beloved Toronto for Los Angeles.

"I realized that if I wanted to make a serious go at a film career, I would have to live in Hollywood," he recalls. "I was getting some great work in Toronto, but you have to go to where the work is. And in those days, it was in Hollywood. So, I packed up my bags and headed west."

Reeves wouldn't have to wait long for that film work. Almost immediately after arriving in Tinsel Town, he was cast in the dark teen drama River's Edge, winning rave

reviews for his intense performance as an alienated, plaid-clad high school student. Before long, he was being cast opposite some of the biggest names in Hollywood.

But while his career has been on a steady incline from the moment he landed in The City Of Angels, it's also been fraught with rumours, innuendo and controversy. Shy by nature, Reeves is often perceived by the press as aloof or downright rude. And, over the years, his unwavering refusal to answer personal questions has led the media to speculate on everything from his sexual preference to his bathing habits. While the rumours used to bother him, Reeves says he has learned to laugh at the outrageous stories concocted by the entertainment corps.

"Bewildered, befuddled and bamboozled is how I used to feel about all those so-called 'facts' about me," he says jokingly. "But they've gotten so crazy, they're not even worth thinking about. I remember the one where I was swimming naked with Sharon Stone at a hotel in L.A., and I was like, 'Wow, I wish that was true.' And there's one right now claiming someone was trying to sell my spleen on the internet. That is pretty wacky, especially since my spleen is in me. So how can you take any of that seriously?"

The Australian press will have the next turn at the Reeves rumour mill, as the actor will spend the next 18 months down under filming parts two and three of *The Matrix*.



#### cover story

While most actors harbour mixed feelings about doing sequels, Reeves is actually excited to be revisiting his role as a computer hacker turned hero.

"I've even said this to my fellow *Matrix* actors — even though we've had this experience before, we haven't had the particular one we are about to have. You have to come in with a new mind to a certain extent.... Be open, don't prejudice what you feel like you might know. Ask again. Ask in the present. If we all go into it with that frame of mind, the two new ones are going to be even better than the first. I'm really excited about it."

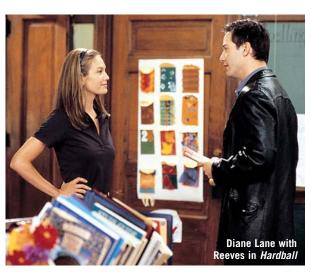
Reeves plans to return to the stage once his *Matrix* duties are finished. His last theatrical experience, a 1995 Winnipeg production of *Hamlet*, was "so extremely gratifying," he says he can't wait to step in front of the footlights again.

### Foul ball?

Not everyone shares Reeves' optimism that Hardball will change the way people think about America's inner cities. While filming in Chicago last year the baseball picture drew harsh criticism from locals, including Mayor Richard Daley, for its unflattering portrayal of The Windy City and its allegedly racist depiction of kids from the projects.

Chicagoans are concerned that the black Little Leaguers swear too much, are portrayed as gangstas-in-the-making, and that their hometown is depicted as being overrun with crime and murder.

But complaints from the city that gave us Al Capone, John Wayne Gacy and the St. Valentine's Day Massacre don't stop there. Real-life baseball coach Robert Muzikowski has accused Paramount Pictures of stealing his life story. Hardball is based on the nonfiction book Hardball: A Season in the Projects, which recounts Muzikowski's experiences as a Little League coach. Muzikowski says he never sold the rights to his story and is threatening to take Paramount to court. Studio lawyers defended the picture with the statement that Hardball is "a dramatic work of fiction...inspired by real events."



"I had forgotten how much I loved live theatre," he explains. "Live theatre emotionally resembles walking out on stage for a concert or entering a wild scene in a movie. It's really exciting and fun, but sometimes it's nerve-wracking. Some nights you walk out and you're relaxed and ready to go. Other nights you feel like you are going to pass out because you are so nervous. But the audiences were so gracious in Winnipeg. I just hope that what I do next on stage is received just as well, wherever I perform it. I just want to keep doing great things and not have any regrets about having done them."

Although Reeves is the first to admit he hasn't always made the wisest choices in his personal or professional life ("There's a couple of movies I did I wish would disappear," he says with a laugh), much like his *Hardball* character, he's always been allowed the chance to choose a different path.

"We're all human, and we all make mistakes," Reeves waxes philosophical. "But if you can see where you might have taken a wrong turn and correct it, then you'll be fine. I am grateful that I am able to produce and get films made that I am attracted to. But it was a long road getting here and one filled with a couple of detours. Without those little detours, though, we'd never learn how to grow. And I'm constantly growing — every minute of every day. If you can't grow, then there's no point to what you're doing. That's why you'll never hear me say I'm where I'm supposed to be, because I could be somewhere else tomorrow."

Earl Dittman is an entertainment journalist based in Houston, Texas. He also interviewed Mark Wahlberg for this issue of Famous.

### famous Trivia

- Glitter marks singer Mariah Carey's debut as a big-screen leading lady.
  But she had a small role in a 1999
  Chris O'Donnell flick, as one of his ex-girlfriends. Name that movie.
- The new, ummm, heist movie Heist stars Danny DeVito and Gene Hackman. But it's not the first time the veteran actors have shared the screen. In which John Travolta movie did the pair play a big movie star and a B-list producer respectively?
- On which '80s TV series did *Training Day* star Denzel Washington find fame as Dr. Phillip Chandler?
- Which Wakin' up in Reno star has a mother who's a psychic?
- Musician David Bowie plays himself in the new Ben Stiller flick Zoolander. But the glam-rock singer has had loads of dramatic parts in interesting movies. Which 1976 sci-fi marked his first starring role?
- To whom is *The Glass House* actress Rita Wilson married?
- Which of the following professions did *Big Trouble* star Janeane Garofalo not hold before becoming an actress/comedian? Bike messenger, secretary, shoe salesperson, waitress or carpenter?
- Which *Rock Star* actress calls the man who played Victor Kiriakis on *Days of Our Lives* dad? Clue: The family's real last name is Anastassakis.

#### ANSWERS

1 The Bachelor 2 Get Shorty 3 St. Elsewhere 4 Billy Bob Thornton 5 The Man Who Fell to Earth 6 Tom Hanks 7 carpenter 8 Jennifer Aniston

## CLOSE STEPS INTO LIZ'S SHOES, SPACEY'S CONVICTED AND CRUDUP GETS BEAT BY

BY SEAN DAVIDSON

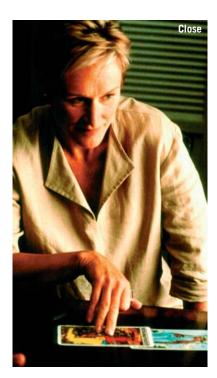


#### HIT THE ROAD, BILLY

Fifty years ago Jack Kerouac ate a handful of Benzedrine and spent three weeks hunkered over a typewriter banging out the rambling and poetic Beat-era masterpiece *On the Road*. Now, it seems, the novel will finally be reworked for the big screen. Billy Crudup (Almost Famous) has been tapped to star as Kerouac's alter-ego Sal Paradise, and will be joined by Brad Pitt (Fight Club) in the role of freewheeling beatnik Dean Moriarty. Hit-and-miss director Joel Schumacher (Tigerland, Batman & Robin) has been hired to helm the project by equally erratic producer Francis Ford Coppola, who bought the rights to the Kerouac novel many years back.

#### **CAINE GETS CLOSE**

A new adaptation of Edward Albee's harrowing play Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf? about a burned-out professor and his shrewish wife - is in the works with Michael Caine and Glenn Close in final negotiations to play fun couple George and Martha. Close (Fatal Attraction, Dangerous Liaisons) is certainly no stranger to playing cruel and/or deluded women and it's not hard to picture Caine (The Cider House Rules), seen so often in tweed or with a drink. as her booze-addled bookish better half. Virginia Woolf first hit the big screen back in 1966 with Richard Burton and Elizabeth Taylor, who knows a thing or two about rocky marriages and took home an Oscar for her efforts.



#### SPACEY ON DEATH ROW

Fresh from the set of *The Shipping News* in Nova Scotia, Kevin Spacey has inked a deal for his next project. The two-time Oscar winner, due to appear in *Shipping News* and *K-PAX* later this year, will play a condemned college professor in *The Life of David Gale*. Taking on a role originally intended for George



Clooney, Spacey's character is an ardent opponent of capital punishment who is wrongly convicted of murder and locked up to await execution. (His cellmate? Keyser Soze.) Producer Nicolas Cage has tapped Alan Parker, director of such knee-slappers as Angela's Ashes and Mississippi Burning to helm the project, which starts shooting this month.

#### WAHLBERG'S CHARADE

Oh dear. From our "questionable casting" files comes word that Mark Wahlberg is stepping into the immaculate patent leather shoes of Cary Grant for a re-do of the 1963 classic Charade. Jonathan Demme (Silence of the Lambs, Philadelphia) will call the shots on the mystery-thriller — retitled The Truth About Charlie — about what happens when a mysterious stranger tries to strong-arm money from a young widow. Joining the former rapper/underwear model/felon on the Paris set is Thandie Newton (Mission: Impossible 2) in the role originally filled by Audrey Hepburn. Demme, apparently determined to cast a beefy rap star, originally wanted Will Smith in the lead, but the Fresh Prince was too busy pumping iron on the set of Ali.

#### WHAT A RUSH

British star Catherine McCormack (Shadow of the Vampire) has replaced Nicole Kidman in the erotic thriller In the Cut. Kidman (Eyes Wide Shut) was to play a New York professor who has several heavy sex scenes with a homicide detective played by Geoffrey Rush (Quills), but apparently didn't like the idea of getting sweaty with her leading man. The movie was co-written, and will be directed, by The Piano's Jane Campion, and is based on the novel by Susanna Moore. It's expected to start shooting, with its new cast, this fall in Manhattan.

#### BRIEFLY

John Woo has been handed \$40-million to make a new Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles movie. ■ Reese Witherspoon has signed to star as a private eye in an adaptation of the '60s cult TV show Honey West. ■ William Hurt and Catherine Deneuve will play lovers in the new Nora Ephron romance Close to Paradise. ■ Frank Darabont, the man responsible for Shawshank Redemption and The Green Mile, will direct an adaptation of Ray Bradbury's landmark sci-fi novel Fahrenheit 451. ■ Sylvester Stallone is adapting Rocky into a Broadway musical.

## blue heaven

ver since them crazy kids incorporated dungarees into their weekday wardrobes back in the '60s, blue jeans have been at the top of the back-to-school shopping list. And this season is no exception. Whether constructed with retro flair, like Winners' patchwork jean skirt, or totally modern, like Levi's streamlined shirt dress, the heavy-duty material is being incorporated into designs ranging from basic to sophisticated. And, as usual, the jean jacket is a necessity, with classic style getting a lift from innovative details. —MW





## PARTY'S HARD

#### Singer Jeff Martin on Tea Party's heavy new sound

BY DAVID GIAMMARCO



ver since its inception more than a decade ago, the Windsor, Ontario-spawned rock outfit The Tea Party — singer/songwriter Jeff Martin, bass player Stuart Chatwood and drummer Jeff Burrows — have bucked the trends, obliterated comparisons and created one of the most distinct sonic signatures in Canada. From hit singles like "Sister Awake" and "Save Me" to "Temptation" and "Heaven Coming Down" (the most played rock song of 1999), the multiplatinum band has consistently challenged audiences as well as the boundaries of rock and roll.

Over a bottle of red wine, and with the stereo cranked up high, Martin previewed the band's new album *Interzone Mantras* (due out October 2) for me at his home, discussed the state of rock music and let Led Zeppelin guitarist Jimmy Page's words defend against those old accusations that Tea Party is just a glorified Zeppelin cover band.

#### [Q] Describe Interzone Mantras' vibe.

[A] "It's the first all hard-rock Tea Party record. The melodies are still there, but we're not using all the exotic instruments so much. It's all about making the guitars as big as possible."

#### [Q] But your guitar work has always been very prominent.

[A] "Yeah, I mean the guitar work was very complex, but it was kind of linear at the same time. It wasn't really 'riffy' in that Zeppy kind of way. "Temptation" [from 1997's *Transmission*] had its riffs, but it's been a long time since I started

playing guitar solos again, really since, like, the first record.... It's funny, the Republicans get back into power in the U.S. and all of a sudden hard rock comes back and guitar solos come back!"

#### [Q] What do you think of today's rock and roll?

[A] "Ninety percent of it now is just all the same type of fluff. They talk about the new metal stuff, but it doesn't turn me on at all. Music is very chameleon-like — if one thing happens, suddenly five other things happen that sound exactly the same. Maybe it's always been that way, like when grunge happened and all of a sudden there were all these grunge bands. But at least with grunge there was a spirit to it. It didn't seem so contrived as the stuff is now. They're trying to be heavy for the sake of being heavy, but they're not even close."

#### [Q] Has critical acclaim ever mattered to you?

[A] "At a point it did, because we were just getting so bashed...but then the skin got really thick and the success got bigger and it just didn't seem to matter anymore because people were buying the records. And now it's come full circle because we do have critical respect now. I mean, you can not like this band's music — maybe it's not to your taste — but you can't deny the musicianship and the talent and the integrity."

#### [Q] Give me one of your career highlights.

[A] "Well, one of the bigger moments from my life was meeting one of my heroes Jimmy Page when we opened up for [Page and Robert Plant] at the Montreal Forum, and then forging a friendship with him. I just saw him three weeks ago when I was in England and he is just so into [Tea Party]. I mean, I heard he threw a big bash at his estate in Windsor recently, and people like Joe Walsh were there, and here's Jimmy Page playing [1999's] TRIPtych and Transmission at like Mach three and he's going 'This is the band! This is where Zeppelin left off.' [Laughs.] And I guess what that does is just dismisses any critic that would dare say that we're just a Zeppelin wannabe, because Mr. Zeppelin himself said that this is where Led Zeppelin left off."

David Giammarco is an entertainment journalist based out of L.A. and Toronto.

#### **OUTTHIS MONTH**

Artist: Tori Amos Title: Strange Little Girl Label: Atlantic/Warner

Artist: Babyface
Title: Face 2 Face
Label: Arista/BMG

Artist: Alice Cooper
Title: Dragon Town
Label: Spitfire/EMI

Artist: Ben Folds

Title: Rockin' in the Suburbs

Label: Epic/Sony

Artist: Macy Gray
Title: The ID
Label: Epic/Sony

Artist: Michael Jackson Title: Invincible Label: Epic/Sony

Artist: Jamiroquai
Title: A Funk Odyssey
Label: Epic/Sony

Artist: Krayzie Bone
Title: Thug on Da Line
Label: Epic/Sony

Artist: Bif Naked
Title: Purge
Label: Atlantic/Warner

Artist: Erick Sermon
Title: The Sermon
Label: J Records/BMG

Artist: Jessica Simpson Title: Irresistible Label: Sony

Artist: System of a Down

Title: Toxicity
Label: Columbia/Sony

Artist: Jacky Terrasson
Title: Kindred
Label: Bluenote/EMI

**Artist: Thrust** 

**Title:** The Chosen are Few **Label:** EMI Music Canada

## PLAY WITH YOUR **CSS**

### Finding hidden "Easter Egg" games on DVDs you may already own BY MARC SALTZMAN

aster may have come and gone, but the so-called Easter Eggs discussed by many of today's film fanatics have nothing to do with the ones decorated in April.

Dozens of today's DVD movies contain these hidden treats, secretly embedded on the disc, that serve as rewards for those clever (and determined) enough to find them. Consider them undocumented extras not listed on the back of the DVD box. They could be blooper reels, deleted scenes, alternate endings, mini-movies, trailers, musical scores, cartoons or interviews.

And, yes, there are also hidden games.

Naturally, most of these are passed on by word of mouth or via DVD websites, such as DVD Review (www.dvdreview.com) or DVD Easter Eggs (www.dvdeastereggs.com). The following are a few of the top game-related eggs to look for, and how to access them.

#### The Lawnmower Man

The DVD for the 1992 sci-fi flick includes a hidden puzzle/memory game. Just insert the "Movie" side of the disc (as opposed to the "Special Features" side) but select "Special Features" from the main menu. Scroll down to "The Cast" and instead of pressing Enter (or Select on some DVD remote controls), press the Left button. Now you'll see eight lime green hexagons light up on the left of the screen. Press Enter. Use the process of elimination, and your memory, to select the right coloured hexagons in the proper order to get an "Access Granted" rather than "Access Denied" sign. Complete the entire sequence and you'll get the message: "You've beaten the Lawnmower Man!"

#### **Lost in Space**

The disc for this 1998 remake of the popular '60s TV series features a trivia game not listed on the box. Pop the DVD into the

player and select "Features" and then "Your Mission" from the main menu. Then you take control of the Jupiter 2 ship and lead the Robinson family to Alpha Prime.

Entering the correct info about the movie, cast and original series (all of which can be found elsewhere on the disc) into the ship's onboard computer activates the hyperdrive. Completing the entire game correctly unlocks a very funny reel of outtakes from the film and other gags featuring the cast.

#### **Practical Magic**

It's not just sci-fi films that feature Easter Eggs — so does the 1998 witch flick *Practical Magic*, starring Sandra Bullock and Nicole Kidman. Insert the second side of the disc ("Special Features") and from the main menu go to the "Special Features" section and scroll to the middle of the screen where the word "Cauldron" appears. Press Enter or Select and a screen with herbs like mint, rosemary and lavender appears.

The goal is to brew a secret potion, like Sally (Bullock) and Gillian (Kidman) did in the film, by selecting the right ingredients in the right order. Clues to which herbs to use are given in other areas of the DVD's special feature sections. Hint: Not all ingredients are needed. Successful potion-making opens two documentaries — a six-minute "making-of" piece and a nine-minute short about the cast and story.

#### Romeo Must Die

The DVD for last year's action pic *Romeo Must Die* features an interactive action game — but you'll need a computer with a DVD-ROM drive to access it. Pop the disc into the PC, run your mouse over the menu, and click on "Martial Arts Experience — The Game". Then you can fight through the film's many combat sequences à la Jet Li.

#### **OUTTHISMONTH**

#### ICO >>PlayStation 2

There's a lot of backstory to Sony's newest title — something about how a boy born with horns on his head was kidnapped and locked in a tomb as a sacrifice. But once you get through the introductory cut scenes you'll find yourself in a puzzle-solving adventure that starts at the very bottom of a sinister castle. Then you get to dodge monsters, manoeuvre through mazes and save a girl from the clutches of the evil queen.

#### The World is Not Enough

>>Gameboy Color

Agent 007 makes his GBC debut in the littlescreen version of the 1999 James Bond movie. Armed with 15 Q Lab weapons and gizmos and aided by characters like M and the pneumatic Christmas Jones, players have to run, shoot and puzzle-solve their way through seven levels (downtown London, Russian sub, etc.) to stop the villain Renard. Use the Nintendo Transfer Pack to copy your character attributes to and from an N64.

#### NFL 2K2 >> Dreamcast

Now there'll be football on the TV for the other 21 hours of the day, as Sega puts on its game face for a third go-round of gridiron action. *NFL 2K2* boasts smarter quarterbacks, an enhanced passing and catching system and new online features, allowing players to go head-to-head with as many as eight players worldwide.

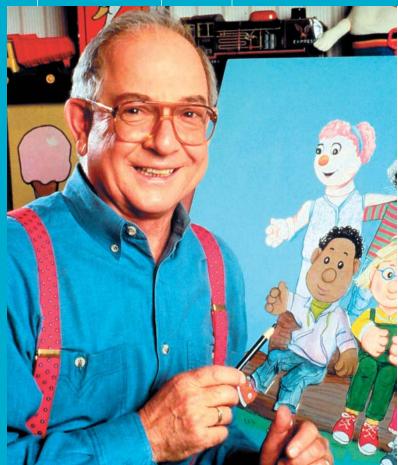
#### For Love of the Game

While it's not quite an Easter Egg because it's easily found on the disc, this braintester on the *For Love of the Game* disc is worth a mention.

From the main menu, scroll down and select the "On the Mound" baseball trivia game. If you get all 12 answers correct before getting three strikes, you'll hit a grand slam. But instead of high fives from your teammates, your reward is *Slide, Babe, Slide,* a 15-minute black and white short film about Babe Ruth from 1931.

Marc Saltzman is a Toronto-based high-tech journalist and author, and can be seen as a regular technology correspondent on CNN and CTV's Canada AM.

#### five favourite films



## Mr. Dressup MAKES HIS PICKS

or Ernie Coombs "dressing up" now means pulling on the comfy attire of cottage life.

The 73-year-old better known as kiddie-TV mainstay Mr. Dressup has been retired for five years now — time which he's split between a house in Pickering, Ont. and a cottage in his home state of Maine. (That's right, the Canadian icon was actually born and reared in the U.S. of A.)

Coombs hasn't entirely said goodbye to show biz though, he's set to narrate a new version of the British cartoon *Simon in the Land of Chalk Drawings* and host an upcoming series about parenting. And, despite not having shot a new episode of CBC's *Mr. Dressup* since Valentine's Day 1996, most little ones probably have no idea their friendly costumier has locked up the Tickle Trunk and is on the air only through the magic of syndication.

Coombs was up at the cottage — taking advantage of a foggy, drizzly day to light a fire in the wood stove and write some letters — when we asked him what he'd tell tots on their first day of school, about the surprising film he made many moons ago and the movies he'd put on his list of the all-time best.

#### WHAT ARE YOUR FIVE FAVOURITE FILMS?

"Number one is one that I was very much impressed with when I was a kid — Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs [1937]. I think

because I was interested in art and animation and the animation was so beautiful in that, so much smoother than any of the animation that had come before. I loved it so much that I memorized the names of the seven dwarfs and even to this day I could recite them. • Number two is **Gone With the Wind** [1939] another magnificent, powerful, sweeping movie. It was in Technicolor, but a very soft, kindly, not garish, Technicolor. It told of a Southern woman's sufferings during the Civil War in the United States as the South was being invaded by the Northern forces. And I think I was a little bit in love with Vivien Leigh but, of course, who wasn't? • For number three, I was really impressed with **Chocolat** [2000], for one thing because the nastiest word in it was 'piss.' I was in the army, and I'm a guy, but when you get the 'f' word every second word you get tired of it. It was an unusual kind of story and it held my interest. • I can't name a specific movie for number four, but all of the early Alec Guinness movies I loved — The Lavender Hill Mob [1951], Man in the White Suit [1951]. He was probably one of the best actors of the century and he could immerse himself in a role so that you didn't see Alec Guinness, you saw the character. • Number five is The African Queen [1951] which was based on a story by C.S. Forester. It was just the locale, and to see Katharine Hepburn as a prim missionary doing her best to put up with these horrible circumstances in the middle of Africa on a queasy old steam boat. And Humphrey Bogart, of course, was great. It had good dramatic moments, adventure, suspense and a lot of humour. Who could ask for anything more?"

#### HAVE YOU EVER BEEN ASKED TO BE IN A MOVIE?

"Actually, I was in a movie. I played a cuckoo-clock maker. Was it Ivan Reitman? This was a long time ago, the 1960s. I never saw it, a friend of mine saw it and...it wasn't really soft porn, but there was some minor nudity. They didn't get around to filming my little bit for weeks, so I'd keep going to whatever location they were at and sitting around, and one time I went into where they were filming and saw this nude woman playing the cello. I don't know what it was — of course, I didn't have the whole plot. Eventually I said 'C'mon, I've got to get back to my day job,' so they said, 'Okay, go through that door and come out and say your lines,' and basically that was it. I wish I could remember the name of it but I really don't even know what it was about. I think it was sort of a far out in left field thing."

#### IF THEY MADE A MOVIE OF YOUR LIFE, WHO WOULD YOU WANT TO PLAY YOU?

"How 'bout Madonna? She would be good. She could dress up and be outrageous. Or Spencer Tracy."

#### WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE FOUR-YEAR-OLDS HEADING OFF FOR THEIR FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL?

"DON'T GO! No, that wouldn't be it. Oh I don't know, It's so hard to give advice to four-year-olds, they don't listen. They know what they're doing, or not doing. Gosh, I would advise them to pay attention, to realize that going to school for the first time means you're beginning to grow up and you're going to discover all kinds of exciting things that you had never known before."

#### DO YOU REMEMBER YOUR FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL?

"Ummm...no, I can't remember yesterday. It's funny, I remember little glimmers here and there of when I was in school — usually when I thought I was wrongly accused of something." —Marni Weisz

### **new***RELEASES*

#### GET DRIVEN, CATCH BLOW OR SEE SPY KIDS

AUGUST 28

#### **SEE SPOT RUN**

Stars: David Arquette, Michael Clarke Duncan Director: John Whitesell (Calendar Girl)
Story: Arquette plays Gordon, a mild-mannered mailman who agrees to take care of his cute neighbour's son, James, for a few days in the hopes of getting in her good books. But one day while Gordon is on his rounds a dog jumps into his mail delivery truck. Not realizing the dog is actually a drug-sniffing agent for the FBI, and is being chased by mobsters trying to kill him, Gordon and James adopt the pooch. Hilarity ensues.

#### SEPTEMBER 4

#### **MEMENTO**

Stars: Guy Pearce, Carrie-Anne Moss
Director: Christopher Nolan (Following)
Story: One of the surprise hits of the year, this highly stylized thriller has been hailed as one of the most innovative films of all time.
Pearce plays a man with no short-term memory who must write everything he knows down on paper or tattoo it on his own skin. What could be so important to embed it in your flesh?
He's on a mission to figure out who raped and murdered his wife.

#### SEPTEMBER 11

#### **TAILOR OF PANAMA**

Stars: Pierce Brosnan, Geoffrey Rush
Director: John Boorman (Deliverance)
Story: Brosnan plays a British spy working in
Panama who thinks he's come upon the perfect secret weapon in Harry Pendel (Rush), an
ex-con tailor who serves the country's rich and
powerful. He gets Harry to listen in on his
clients' conversations and report back. What
he doesn't know is that the tailor's info might
not be entirely accurate.

#### **BLOW**

Stars: Johnny Depp, Penélope Cruz
Director: Ted Demme (Monument Ave.)
Story: It's the mostly true story of small-time
hood George Jung (Depp), who found enormous
wealth in the 1970s and '80s after getting
involved in the Colombian drug trade. But the
price he had to pay for his life of luxury turned
out to be higher than he'd hoped to pay.

SEPTEMBER 18

#### SPY KIDS

Stars: Antonio Banderas, Carla Gugino
Director: Robert Rodriguez (The Faculty)
Story: Gregorio (Banderas) and Ingrid (Gugino)
used to be among the deadliest secret agents
in the world. Now they're happily married with
two kids (Alex Vega and Daryl Sabara) and
have seemingly left all that spy stuff behind.
But when their former colleagues start to disappear Gregorio and Ingrid return to work.
When they too disappear, their kids may be
the only ones who can save them.

#### **CROCODILE DUNDEE IN LOS ANGELES**

Stars: Paul Hogan, Linda Kozlowski
Director: Simon Wincer (Free Willy)
Story: In this third movie about Hogan's signature character, Mick and the family — wife
Sue (Kozlowski) and son Mikey (newcomer
Serge Cockburn) — move from Walkabout
Creek, Australia, to L.A. where Sue takes over
as L.A. bureau chief at her father's newspaper.
Seems her predecessor died under suspicious
circumstances. Hmmm...looks like ol' leather
face is gonna be doing more than sightseeing
in Lotus Land.

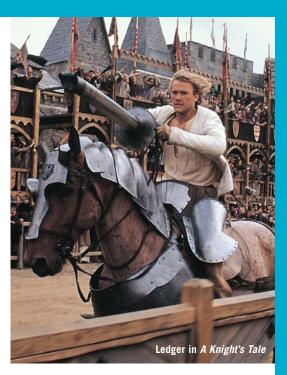
#### DRIVEN

Stars: Sylvester Stallone, Kip Pardue
Director: Renny Harlin (Deep Blue Sea)
Story: An over-the-hill race car driver
(Stallone) is brought in to help a scatterbrained rookie (Pardue) get his act together in
this action flick filmed partly in Toronto and
Montreal. Canadian model Estella Warren
makes her big-screen debut as the object of
Pardue's affections.

#### SEPTEMBER 25

#### **SOMEONE LIKE YOU**

Stars: Ashley Judd, Hugh Jackman
Director: Tony Goldwyn (A Walk on the Moon)
Story: When the producer of a top daytime-TV
talk show (Judd) has her heart broken by the
show's cutie-pie executive producer (Greg
Kinnear) she becomes jaded and gets a job as
a sex columnist where she disseminates her
theory that men are no better than animals.
But then she finds herself falling for her
roommate Eddie (Jackman), the biggest womanizer of them all.



#### **ALONG CAME A SPIDER**

Stars: Morgan Freeman, Monica Potter Director: Lee Tamahori (The Edge)
Story: Freeman once again plays police detective/psychologist Alex Cross in this follow-up to 1997's Kiss the Girls. This time, Cross is on the trail of a kidnapper hoping to find fame by nabbing the young daughter of a senator.
Based on the novel by James Patterson.

#### A KNIGHT'S TALE

Stars: Heath Ledger, Paul Bettany
Director: Brian Helgeland (Payback)
Story: Helgeland uses contemporary tunes
from David Bowie and Queen to give this
medieval jousting flick a modern edge — and,
amazingly, it works. Ledger plays a young
pauper posing as a noble in order to compete
in jousting tournaments and earn lots of
money — and the heart of an anachronistically
self-assured princess played by the exotic
Shannyn Sossamon.

#### D V D S P O T L I G H T

#### WELCOME TO THE MODERN AGE, CITIZEN KANE

Believe it or not, until this month the film many consider to be the best of all time has not been available on DVD. Wait no longer Kanenites — *Citizen Kane* has finally been carved onto little shiny discs, complete with requisite behind-the-scenes stuff and add-ons including full-length audio commentaries by critic Roger Ebert and filmmaker Peter Bogdonovich; the original theatrical trailer; the 1941 newsreel from the film's premiere; a two-hour documentary about the power struggle between director/star Orson Welles and William Randolph Hearst (on whom the Kane character was based); and interviews with Welles and other stars of the film.

#### september horoscope

## stargazing

#### BY DAN LIEBMAN

#### **VIRGO**

#### August 23-September 22

If romance is a menu, then the emphasis this month is on appetizers. Linger over the delectable first courses and the promise of a delightful main dish. It will come — but this isn't the time for charging ahead.

#### **LIBRA**

#### September 23-October 22

For the first couple of weeks, your efforts at work come under scrutiny. Then, after the 15th, you're calling the shots. The full moon of the 2nd ushers in a period of reconciliation.

#### **SCORPIO**

#### October 23-November 21

Group efforts thrive once you commit to voting out the weakest link. With the arrival of a guest, your home environment becomes more soothing. Romantic fireworks liven up September's skies.

#### **SAGITTARIUS**

#### November 22-December 22

The month finds you intuitive to the point of being psychic, but you have to channel this energy in a positive way. (In other words, no snooping.) Such superficial things as wardrobe and style help you get through important doors, so look your most dynamic.

#### CAPRICORN

#### December 23-January 20

Romantic hesitation develops into striking

confidence as the month progresses. Signed agreements are better than handshakes, no matter how much you like the other party.

#### **AQUARIUS**

#### January 21-February 19

You receive great reviews for recent academic achievements, but now it's time to give the old brain a rest. Purely escapist events provide the month's best moments.

#### **PISCES**

#### February 20-March 20

The gatherings you host are anything but dull, given your knack for bringing people from various backgrounds together. Decorating jobs turn out well, thanks to your flair for combining interesting objects.

#### **ARIES**

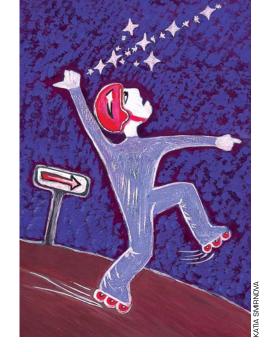
#### March 21-April 20

Fire sign Aries is known for enthusiasm, a quality you now bring to romance — new or renewed. Meanwhile, you provide a note of calm in a work environment plagued by mood shifts and rearranged schedules.

#### **TAURUS**

#### April 21-May 22

Taurus has got to be super alert. First, your partner is being so subtle that you could miss an important message. Second, there's a good financial opportunity knocking but, you guessed it, the knock can barely be heard. So be all ears, especially around the 19th.



#### **GEMINI**

#### May 23-June 21

Pump up the volume. Communications may be your forte, but in matters romantic you're unusually tongue-tied right now. The potential is there, just be more forthright. Sales pitches also need a bolder voice.

#### CANCER

#### June 22-July 22

After a summer of on-again/off-agains, relationships are back on course. The emphasis is also on projects related to renovating, rebuilding and relocating. Information about finances requires clarification.

#### **LEO**

#### July 23-August 22

September offers a happy pairing — romantic or business, but not both — with a Libra or Gemini. Creativity abounds for Leo this month.



### BY SUSAN GRANGER

JULIA ROBERTS "My parents were actors long ago. They ran a theatre school when we were little. My mom and dad gave me my first part."

**LIAM NEESON** "I studied physics at the University of Belfast and planned on a teaching career. While waiting to take the exams I applied to a small repertory company and got the job. Two years later, I moved to Dublin where I joined the Abbey Theatre. The director John Boorman saw me in a play and cast me as Sir Gawain in Excalibur."

BRAD PITT "When I first arrived in L.A. I started doing work as an extra along with any odd jobs I could find. About nine months later, I got a part in Dallas on TV. I did episodic TV, movies of the week, anything I could get, and joined an acting class. A woman in the class had an audition with an agent. She needed a partner to do a scene. It was one of those classic stories — I did the scene with her and ended up with the agent."

JEAN-CLAUDE VAN DAMME "When I was 17, I went to the Milan Film Festival. All those Hollywood people told me, 'Come to see me,'

so I came to Los Angeles and ended up cleaning floors and driving taxis. One day I saw [writer/director/producer] Menahem Golan in a restaurant and, later, in the parking lot, I did a flying kick over his head. He told me to come to his office. After waiting six hours I took off my shirt and he gave me a script, saying, 'You can play the lead.'"

**DANIEL DAY-LEWIS** "When they were filming Sunday Bloody Sunday in South East London, where I grew up, they needed a lot of hooligans to go and play football in the park. We were chosen by a man who ran the local fruit and vegetable shop. John Schlesinger, the director, asked to see a group of us and he chose the three nastiest looking ones for a special job of scratching a row of very posh cars with broken glass. I was one of them."

MERYL STREEP "I was in a play and friends told me I was good in it, so I went to drama school and got hooked. Acting has never been agony for me. I just worked at it, stood in that unemployment line in Lower Manhattan, and was cast in a small part in Julia. It was really like Never-Never Land. It was a quantum leap

— from making Broadway minimum, \$235 a week, to \$2,000. I just couldn't believe it."

HARRISON FORD "I was a philosophy major in college, which prepares you to do nothing but write or teach philosophy. When I first went on stage I was terrified.... My first movie role was in Dead Heat on a Merry-Go-Round, in which I played a bellhop, calling out, 'Paging Mr. Ellis!' I was 24 and I wasn't even listed in the credits."

PAUL NEWMAN "I was so embarrassed about my first part — the artisan Basil in Ancient Greece in The Silver Chalice — that I later took out a full-page ad in the trades apologizing and urging people not to see the movie. Basil was designing a silver chalice for Christ to drink from at the Last Supper. What I'd like people to think was my first role was Rocky Graziano in Somebody Up There Likes Me."

JANE SEYMOUR "The first film I appeared in was Oh! What a Lovely War and I had one line. After the day's shooting, the director, Richard Attenborough, said, 'I think she's going to become a star,' and he signed me up."