

Your Ultimate **HOLIDAY** Preview

WE MADE A LIST AND CHECKED IT TWICE! THE MUST-SEE **MOVIES, TV & MORE**

P. 16

NOVEMBER 16, 2018
#1537

Entertainment **WEEKLY**

Mary Poppins **RETURNS**

"Yet I still
can't get
Hamilton
tickets."

A star is reborn! Emily Blunt and
Lin-Manuel Miranda are practically perfect
in every way in this delightful sequel.

BY MARC SNETIKER

A FILM BY
JOEL & ETHAN COEN



WINNER
BEST SCREENPLAY



75
BIENNALE INTERNAZIONALE
D'ARTE CINEMATOGRAFICA
LA BIENNALE DI VENEZIA 2018

The Ballad of Buster Scruggs



OFFICIAL SELECTION
NEW YORK
FILM FESTIVAL
2018



OFFICIAL SELECTION
LONDON
FILM FESTIVAL
2018



OFFICIAL SELECTION
AFI
FILM FESTIVAL
2018

IN SELECT THEATERS AND ON
NETFLIX | NOVEMBER 16

A



WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY JOEL COEN & ETHAN COEN

R

SOME STRONG
VIOLENCE



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Mary Poppins Returns

Emily Blunt shoots for the stars in this delightful sequel.

BY MARC SNETIKER

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BY EW STAFF

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Emily Blunt photographed exclusively for EW on Oct. 27, 2018, in Savannah

ON THE COVER

Lin-Manuel Miranda as Jack and Emily Blunt as Mary Poppins in *Mary Poppins Returns*. Courtesy of Disney.

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PHOTOGRAPH BY BENEDICT EVANS

THE WEEK'S
BEST

Sound Bites

TWEET OF THE WEEK



Chrissy Teigen
@chrissyteigen

"if talking about my plans to work out were an actual workout, I would be ... the rock" —The *Lip Sync Battle* personality, wishing she had Dwayne Johnson's gym work ethic

"Thought I'd end up with Sean/But he wasn't a match/Wrote some songs about Ricky/Now I listen and laugh/Even almost got married/And for Pete, I'm so thankful/Wish I could say thank you to Malcolm/'Cause he was an angel."

—Ariana Grande, singing about her exes, on "thank u, next"

"Oh no, I'm not Seth Rogen, I'm actually Jonah Hill."

—Jonah Hill, being mistaken for his frequent costar, on *Saturday Night Live*

"And that's not the same guy?"

—Candice Bergen, welcoming the wrong guy to the Five-Timers Club

"What in the Disney hell is this?"

—Sara (Caity Lotz), reacting to the appearance of a fairy godmother, on DC's *Legends of Tomorrow*

"Do you even look at my Instagram? 'Gratitude' is my most frequently used hashtag."

—Kathryn (Jennifer Garner), confirming that she counts her blessings, on *Camping*

"Natalie going home is bittersweet. She was bitter, and for the tribe, it was sweet."

—Angelina, enjoying the latest departure, on *Survivor*

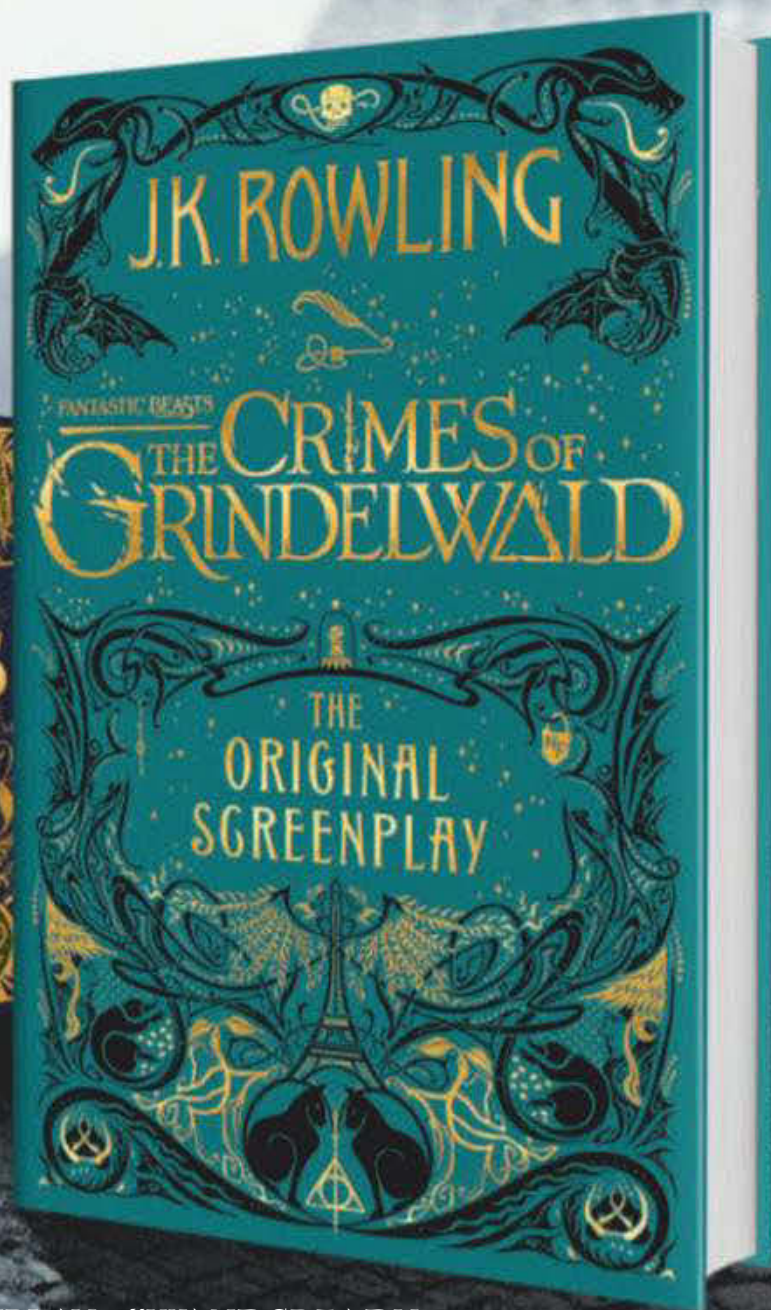
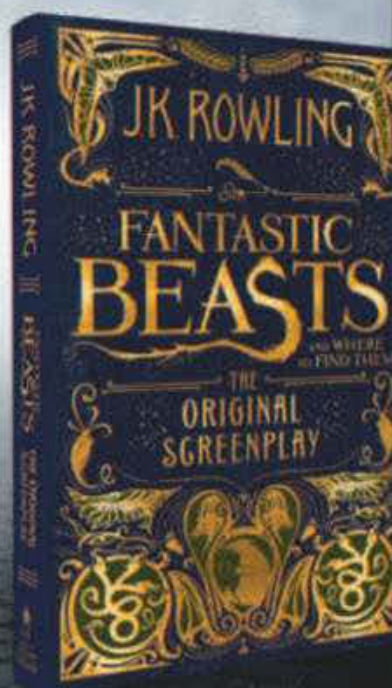
"You don't sweep the math awards and not become a ladies' man."

—Junior (Marcus Scribner), explaining his surprising status, on *black-ish*

TEIGEN: JIM SPELLMAN/WIREIMAGE; GRANDE: AXELLE/BAUER-GRIFFIN/FILMMAGIC; DC'S LEGENDS OF TOMORROW: BRENDAN MEADOWS/THE CW; HILL: GARY GERSHOF/WIREIMAGE; SATURDAY NIGHT LIVE: WILL HEATH/NBC; CAMPING: AUTUMN DE WILDE/HBO; SURVIVOR: ROBERT VOETS/CBS; BLACK-ISH: CRAIG SJODIN/ABC

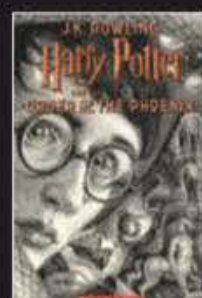
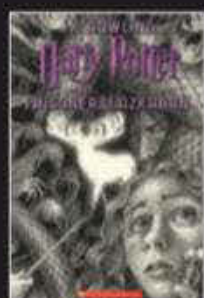
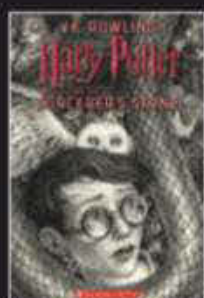
FANTASTIC BEASTS THE CRIMES OF GRINDELWALD

THE NEW
SCREENPLAY BY
J.K. ROWLING



#FANTASTICBEASTS #FBSCREENPLAY #WANDSREADY

Harry Potter 20 YEARS OF
MAGIC



Cover art by Brian Selznick.

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The What to Talk About
With Your Family at Thanksgiving
Besides Politics Edition

The Must List

THE **TOP 10** THINGS WE LOVE THIS WEEK Edited By | MARC SNETIKER @MARCNETIKER



Movies

INSTANT FAMILY

Rose Byrne and Mark Wahlberg waded through the emotional chaos of adopting foster kids in this rare heartfelt studio comedy that earns its laughs and tears while taking an empathetic look at an oft-overlooked subject. (Nov. 16)



ROSE BYRNE

The Australian actress, 39, breaks down her hilariously human performance with EW's David Canfield

The script shows a different side of fostering than what's typical in movies. What was your reaction to reading it?

I'd just had a baby, so I was super emotional. [Laughs] I read the script and was just sobbing. It was so moving and heart-breaking. I'd never seen anything or read anything like it.

What kind of research did you decide to do?

I had a fantastic dinner with an incredible group of mothers who'd fostered children. Some had foster kids in transition, some had a mix of biological and adopted—from all walks of life. I'll never forget it. The amazing thing was how much we laughed. They were

LARRY BUSACCA/GETTY IMAGES



so engaging and so willing to laugh at the hardness of it, the challenge and the joy. It was such a special experience. They were so candid—and kind, to let me ask my zillion questions.

Of course, the trick of showing the joy of foster care is not making light of it, either. Did you struggle with finding that?

I was absolutely nervous. I was worried about the tone: how far to push it, how to ground it in reality. It was hard. This was [writer-director Sean Anders'] story, so I trusted him. I knew how passionate he was. We'd push the comedy and then pull back. It was very collaborative, finding that line. Because it is a very fine line.

You do have a harshly realistic scene with Mark, where your characters talk about what a terrible mistake they might have made.

Yes! I remember agonizing about that. It took such a long time to figure that one out. I was asking, "What am I really saying? Why is it funny? How should I play it?"

This is being released just in time for the holidays—why is this a great movie for the season?

It's about families and what they look like. There's no one way a family should look. They're of all sizes, all creeds. So it's genuinely meant for everybody. At a time when families are being torn apart, this is about a family trying to come together.



Music

IMAGINE DRAGONS

ORIGINS

PLAY THIS LIST!

- 1 "MACHINE"
- 2 "BAD LIAR"
- 3 "WEST COAST"

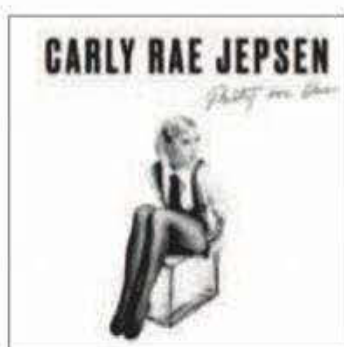
The recent zeitgeist splash of Imagine Dragons frontman (turned documentarian) Dan Reynolds has only raised the profile of the ubiquitous rock band—the most streamed of 2018, in fact. With their anthemic, ethereal fourth studio album, *Origins*, it's not difficult to imagine them holding on to that record for the rest of the year.



Music

CARLY RAE JEPSEN

"PARTY FOR ONE"



If 2017's "Cut to the Feeling" was but a taste of the new music brewing in Jepsen's mind since her 2015 pop epic *E•MO•TION*, this bouncy ode to self-love is catchy confirmation that Jepsen's long-delayed but long-anticipated next album is surely worth the wait.



TV

SURVIVOR

This season's *David vs. Goliath* outing is one of the best in years, thanks to an electric cast, brutal weather, and a bizarre subplot involving a Members Only jacket. With smart risks in editing and storytelling, season 37 is paying off in a big way—like, million-dollar big. (CBS, Wednesdays, 8 p.m.)





JEFF PROBST

The longtime host tells EW's Dalton Ross why season 37 has created such a storm

What's been your biggest takeaway about this season so far?

This is one of the best groups of 20 people we've ever assembled. And the theme in this case is really culturally relevant. I think there's a subliminal, unconscious thing happening about underdogs versus favorites that we're all going through right now.

Who have been some of your favorite players this season?

Christian is going to stand out because he's just so unique and peculiar and fun and heartwarming and an underdog. All these things that we want to see in ourselves: potential and possibility. And there's John the wrestler. When you're doing *David vs. Goliath*, you gotta have a guy that literally looks like he was carved from granite.

How satisfying is it to have fans excited about a 37th season?

We never coast. We're the same group of idiots that have been out there for the last decade-plus, and we still look at each other and go, "I still care a lot. You? Okay, let's do it again." So you come home and put it together, and you cross your fingers and go, "Man, I hope they like it."

BIRTHDAY BUDDIES (NOV. 12)

Anne Hathaway

Ryan Gosling

Tonya Harding



Music

ARIANA GRANDE

"THANK U, NEXT"

The 25-year-old pop star put a cap on her whirlwind summer love story with ex-fiancé Pete Davidson by surprise-releasing this sultry single, a deliciously downbeat recounting of all the lessons she learned from her exes. The bigger surprise? From Ari's empowered lyrics, even the most bitter ex-lover could learn a thing or two.



Books

6 SEDUCTION

by Karina Longworth

With a subtitle like *Sex, Lies, and Stardom in Howard Hughes's Hollywood*, Longworth—host of the Old Hollywood podcast *You Must Remember This*—offers a compelling and relevant must-read that examines gender, sex, and power in classic cinema through the lens of the life, loves, and many lusts of the infamous director.



SCREEN PARTNERS

Forget wine: Longworth suggests pairing your *Seduction* read-through with these notable golden-age movies.

BY MAUREEN LEE LENKER

RED DUST (1932)

Hughes' discovery Jean Harlow stars opposite Clark Gable as a fallen woman caught in a love triangle with Gable and Mary Astor. Longworth cites the film as the clearest example of Harlow's persona as "someone who is overtly sexual, but also really goodhearted."

AVAILABLE ON iTunes/YouTube



CAUGHT (1949)

This film noir, which director Max Ophüls made as revenge for getting fired from a Hughes project, is a thinly veiled picture of Hughes' megalomania. Longworth calls it "a watercolor portrait of Hughes—it has some recognizability, but also an impressionistic style."

AVAILABLE ON DVD/Blu-ray



KITTY FOYLE (1940)

Best known for starring opposite Fred Astaire, onetime Hughes flame Ginger Rogers won an Oscar for her work in this female melodrama. "The performance is truly incredible," says Longworth. "The way she delineates how this woman behaves when she's with different people is really advanced acting."

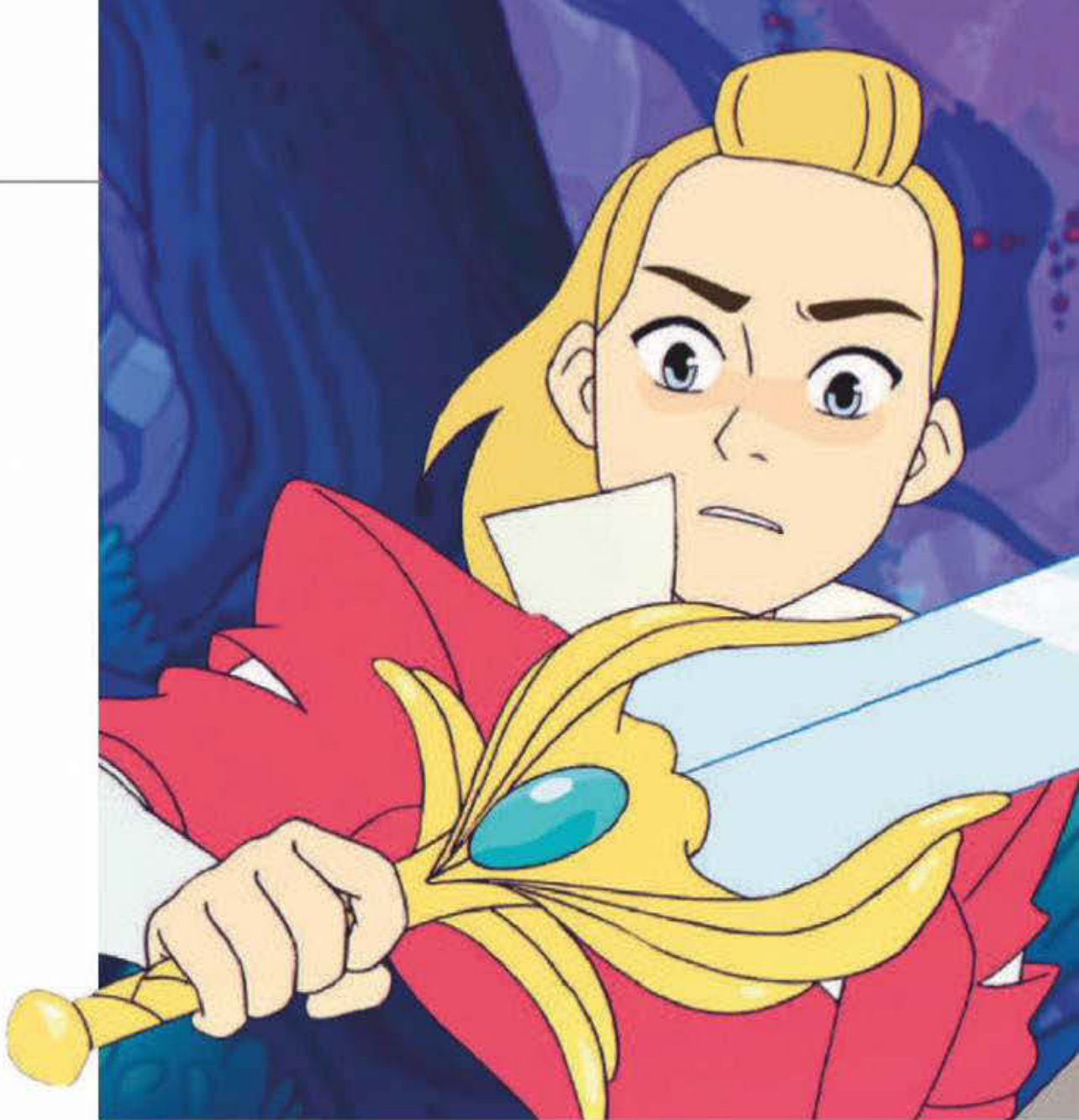
AVAILABLE ON iTunes/YouTube



THE *by Tim Stack*
STACK!

VICTORIA BECKHAM TOUR REPLACEMENTS

1. PAULA ABDUL (CLUMSY SPICE)
2. CARDI B (OKURRRR SPICE)
3. MAGGIE ROGERS (WHO SPICE?)
4. DOLLY PARTON (SPICE RACK)



7



Books

INSURRECTO

by Gina Apostol

Apostol (*Bibliolepsy*) interrogates the traumatic, mostly forgotten Philippine-American War in this dazzling two-hander that follows an American filmmaker and a Filipino translator on a road trip as they clash over matters of art and genocide. What results is a tender character study erupting with blazing insights about the ethics of storytelling.

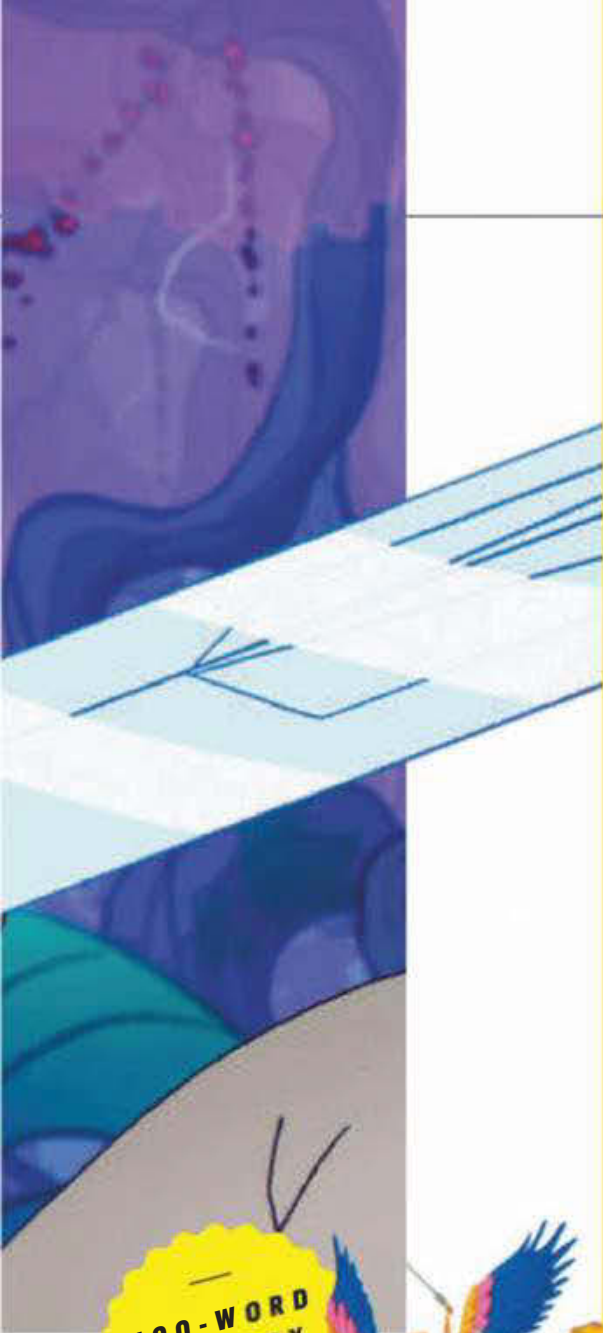


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TV

SHE-RA AND THE PRINCESSES OF POWER

1980s hero She-Ra returns on a new series from executive producer Noelle Stevenson, who says 2018 is the “perfect time” to revive the story of Adora, a soldier for *Masters of the Universe*’s Evil Horde who discovers that she’s been fighting for the wrong side. The show’s empowered princesses “are free of the day-to-day issues that we deal with: sexism, racism, all of the things that can make the news cycle so oppressive,” says Stevenson. But the series is “also still addressing a lot of those same issues in a way that’s a call to action, a call to be brave, and to be strong.” For the honor of Grayskull indeed. (*Netflix, Nov. 13*)



100-WORD
HISTORY
LESSON

Walking action figure He-Man became an '80s icon after the debut of his 1983 cartoon series, *He-Man and the Masters of the Universe*. But in 1985 the movie *The Secret of the Sword* introduced a new character: Force Captain Adora, who was actually Princess Adora, the long-lost twin sister of He-Man's alter ego, Prince Adam. When Adora got hold of the Sword of Protection, she would become She-Ra, a behemoth blonde with superstrength and a gilded tiara. The character's subsequent 1985 spin-off series lasted for two seasons, but her legacy—not to mention the lunchboxes and T-shirts—would last far longer. —Dana Schwartz



Music

SMASHING PUMPKINS

SHINY AND
OH SO BRIGHT VOL. 1/
LP: NO PAST.
NO FUTURE. NO SUN.

Finally: the first Pumpkins album in 18 years to feature original members James Iha and Jimmy Chamberlin (the only one missing is bassist D'arcy Wretzky, due to an apparent dispute between her and—who else?—singer-guitarist and famous feuder Billy Corgan). This electric eight-track LP borrows heavily from the band's *Mellon Collie and the Infinite Sadness* era, with glowing strings ("Knights of Malta"), pop-ish melodies ("Alienation"), grunge-adjacent riffs ("Seek and You Shall Destroy"), and Corgan's usual caterwauling ("Marchin' On").



Movies

10 OUTLAW KING

What's next for a man who commanded starships in space and fought Nazis with Wonder Woman? The 14th century, of course! Chris Pine dons a smock and mullet as he faces the Scottish elements, baring all to play Robert the Bruce, the titular outlaw king who leads his ragtag subjects into a fight for independence against the English army. (Netflix, Nov. 9)

WHOSE PINE IS IT ANYWAY?

In *Outlaw King*, he's scruffy, filthy—and yet dreamy as ever. Can you match these five other Chris Pines to the lucky characters who fell for them?



1

FDR FOSTER



A

DIANA PRINCE



2

NICHOLAS
DEVEREAUX



B

ASHLEY
ALBRIGHT



3

STEVE TREVOR



C

LAUREN



4

JAKE HARDIN



D

MIA THERMOPOLIS



5

JAMES T. KIRK



E

SPOCK

ANSWER KEY

1 C (THIS MEANS WAR) | 2 D (THE PRINCESS DIARIES 2: ROYAL ENGAGEMENT) | 3 A (WONDER WOMAN) | 4 B (JUST MY LUCK) | 5 E (STAR TREK)

Entertaining Weekly

Expert advice for hosting the biggest meal of the year (family dysfunction not included).

BY RUTH KINANE @ruthiekinane

THANKSGIVING SPECIAL



► THE FOOD

GOBBLE GOBBLE

This Turkey Day, we are thankful for this cookie recipe by Giada De Laurentiis, host of **Ultimate Thanksgiving Challenge** on Food Network. It serves up plenty of fun and flavor, minus the meat sweats.



INGREDIENTS

- 1 16.5-oz. package slice-and-bake sugar cookie dough
- 3-4 .67-oz. tubes orange decorating gel or icing
- 84 pieces candy corn
- 3-4 .67-oz. tubes black decorating gel or icing
- 24 bittersweet chocolate chips
- 24 thin pretzel sticks (optional)

1 Bake the cookies according to package directions and cool completely.

2 Make the turkey feathers by drawing a zigzag pattern along the edge of half of a cookie with the orange gel.

3 Place seven pieces of candy corn, pointed side in, along the zigzag to hold in place.

4 Just below the feathers, make the face: Squeeze two dots of the black gel for the eyes and a small "v" of the orange gel just below the eyes for the beak.

5 Place a chocolate chip over each dot of gel to finish the eyes.

6 Below the face, draw two legs with the black gel; draw two parallel, vertical lines and three toes coming off each leg. (Optional: Break the

pretzels to the size of the legs and adhere them to the black gel.) Repeat for the remaining cookies.

MAKES 12
Active Time 30 minutes
Total Time 40 minutes

"These turkey cookies are like an art project for kids," says De Laurentiis. "This recipe is all about having fun and including the whole family!"

Ultimate Thanksgiving Challenge premieres Sunday, Nov. 4, at 9 p.m. on Food Network.



► THE DECOR

The Ultimate Friends-giving

Friends set decorator Greg Grande tells us how to create a holiday look that would make Monica "I'm always the hostess!" Geller proud



EMBRACE THE KITSCH

Monica doesn't have a "pretentious decorating style," says Grande. "Something like the tablecloths could've come from a thrift store or craft sale."

SHOP IT Elrene Swaying Leaves Tablecloth, \$48; macys.com



SAY IT WITH FLOWERS

"Flowers were a big part of the decor in Monica and Rachel's place," Grande says. "They're everywhere in the Thanksgiving episodes—we used hydrangeas and sunflowers most."

SHOP IT Bloom That Fall Frenzy Bouquet, \$50; ftd.com



MORE IS MORE

Don't be afraid to load up the table. "[Think] oversized bowls, pitchers, and tumblers for water. It can be crowded without being overbearing."

SHOP IT Certified International Autumn Fields Serving Bowl, \$45; jcpenney.com

**THE PROTEIN TO HELP POWER
THROUGH A GRUELING DAY
OF FANTASY COACHING.**



Keep it real. Keep it Tyson.

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Star-Studded Southe

A

AT THE END OF OCTOBER, ENTERTAINMENT WEEKLY HEADED TO the Hostess City of the South, serving as official media partner for the 21st annual SCAD Savannah Film Festival in Georgia. It was a jam-packed week of sure-to-be-Oscar-contending movies, awards, and oh-so-many biscuits. Over the course of the week, A-listers stopped by EW's video suite with bundles of Southern charm. Among the stars in attendance were *The Front Runner*'s Hugh Jackman (who received the Legend of Cinema Award), Emily Blunt (recipient of the festival's Icon Award), and John Krasinski, who took home this year's Vanguard Award for co-writing and directing *A Quiet Place*.

As the first weekend wound down, the stars of *Outlander* joined EW's Lynette Rice for a screening of the season 4 premiere and a wee chat about what's to come on the show. EW also presented the next wave of Hollywood up-and-comers (including Hari Nef, Elsie Fisher, and Winston Duke) with Breakout Awards before John David Washington received a Distinguished Performance trophy for his work in Spike Lee's *BlacKkKlansman*, reminding fans, "This is a period piece, but this is a very contemporary, time-sensitive subject. It shows you how generational hate is."

After receiving SCAD's Rising Star Award, *The Hate U Give*'s Amandla Stenberg told an audience of aspiring filmmakers about the need to make movies that explore "issues that are hard to approach" and "create some real empathy and real understanding." In a separate conversation with EW's Devan Coggan, Chloë Grace Moretz reminded the crowd to pick projects that "light a fire under you."

Head to EW.com for more inside scoop and fun videos from the festival, y'all!

STENBERG, MORETZ, WASHINGTON: CINDY ORD/GETTY IMAGES FOR SCAD (3)



rn Screens

The buzziest titles and hottest of topics took center stage during the **2018 SCAD Savannah Film Festival**, with celebrities stopping by *Entertainment Weekly's* panels and studio to provide fresh insights into their art.

BY RUTH KINANE



← (Clockwise from left)
SCAD Savannah Film Festival saluted *On the Basis of Sex* star Armie Hammer with the Outstanding Achievement in Cinema Award, while EW hosted a lively panel with the brightest new talent in film, including Kayli Carter, Hari Nef, Elsie Fisher, Thomasin McKenzie, Millicent Simmonds, Raúl Castillo, and Winston Duke. *Outlander's* century-crossed lovers Sam Heughan and Caitriona Balfe shared secrets from the new season, and Yalitza Aparicio opened up about her first-ever movie role in *Roma*. Actors Amandla Stenberg, Chloë Grace Moretz, and John David Washington got real about making art that matters.





*MARY POPPINS
RETURNS*

DIRECTOR
Rob Marshall

STARRING
Emily Blunt, Lin-Manuel Miranda

Mary (Emily Blunt)
and Jack (Lin-Manuel
Miranda) find
their light and a little
razzle-dazzle

There's Something Ab

DATE
12.19

Plus

MOVIES
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**EMILY BLUNT AND
LIN-MANUEL MIRANDA
SHOOT FOR THE
STARS IN *MARY POPPINS
RETURNS*—THE MOST
MAGICAL MUSICAL MOVIE
OF THE YEAR.**

By **Marc Snetiker** @MarcSnetiker



o u t MARY

“E

verybody’s walking around with their cheeks a little pinker...and you just know they’ve got a secret.” That’s the picture Meryl Streep paints of the set of *Mary Poppins Returns*, Disney’s high-stakes, high-magic sequel to the 1964 classic. Any number of elements of the original *Mary Poppins*—its indelible songs, its star performances by Julie Andrews and Dick Van Dyke—have made the first film nothing less than a crown jewel for the studio. But Streep, among those who will bring Mary back to audiences this December, feels like they’re sitting

on something with more than a little shine of its own.

¶ Emily Blunt plays Mary Poppins, heaven-sent (or at least from that direction) to help a grown-up Jane (Emily Mortimer) and Michael (Ben Whishaw) Banks raise Michael’s three children in 1930s London. Lin-Manuel Miranda, Broadway’s *Hamilton* hero, costars as Jack, a lamplighter privy to Mary’s magic. Both were recruited by director Rob Marshall, the helmer of movie musicals like *Chicago* and *Into the Woods*; with an award-winning creative team, Marshall culled from *Poppins* author P.L. Travers’ eight-book series to custom-build a new adventure for his two leads. ¶ Blunt, 35, and Miranda, 38, know *Mary Poppins Returns* is once-in-a-lifetime stuff. As the pair sat down for tea with EW in Manhattan, they chatted about the biggest roles of their careers, their charmed onscreen connection, and the moviemaking experience neither is ever likely to forget.



penguins, tomorrow we’re dancing with Meryl Streep, the next day we’re biking in front of Buckingham Palace.” For me, coming from theater, the adrenaline source is having the audience there, and when you take it away, where does that part come from? And you realize, it comes from “We’re never coming back to Buckingham Palace to get a second take.” The adrenaline is in getting it right in that moment.

Emily, what differentiated this experience from others for you?

BLUNT It’s to do with Rob, because he is so meticulous in how he approaches a film. Normally—we have this expression in England—it’s a bit of a kick-bollocks scramble: You haven’t rehearsed, you’re rewriting scenes on the day. I’ve had that on almost every other [project]. And on this, everything was so detailed, eight weeks of rehearsal, every set perfectly taped out on the floor. There was the freedom for just details alone, and that is beautiful, as an actor, to experience.

MIRANDA Emily, you gave me the best advice on the first day, which is “Rob’s not going to move on unless he has it.” I just knew I had to give everything.

BLUNT Rob, deep down, will always have a dancer’s mentality, which is that you run it until it is absolutely perfect and as spectacular as it could possibly be.

Is it true you began your first day on *Mary Poppins Returns* with an animated dance number?

EMILY BLUNT Believe it or not, day one.

LIN-MANUEL MIRANDA Our joint choreography. Terror. But finding everything together, and animators giving notes like “The penguin’s going to be heavier holding on to your cane, can you show us

that?” It was like all of the avant-garde training I did as a theater major came in handy dealing with imaginary penguins.

Lin, you call this your “first big movie.” When did you realize this wasn’t the normal big-movie experience?

MIRANDA The highs were so high, in terms of: “Today we’re dancing with



Mary (Emily Blunt) takes Jack (Lin-Manuel Miranda) and the Banks kids (Joel Dawson, Pixie Davies, and Nathanael Saleh) on an animated adventure; (below) John, Anna-bel, and Georgie Banks have a kite but no flight

When you agreed to be in the film, Lin, you were in *Hamilton*, and Emily, you were about to do *The Girl on the Train*—

BLUNT Which is so similar. The cheeks were *ever* so pink on that one. [Laughs]

When did you officially meet to discuss this big secret you were holding—that you were both starring in this movie?

BLUNT We had met before, actually, because I was a *Hamilton* junkie. I had gone to see it way before I had been asked to do *Mary Poppins*. Then I saw it again with my mother. And I think by the time I came back with my father...

MIRANDA We knew by then. And that was a *really* stressful show. I felt like I was auditioning for Mary Poppins, the person. [Laughs] That night was the first time we were both like, “Holy s---.”

BLUNT The whole project was cloaked in a sense of protection, and by that time, it had sunk in that it was happening. I had been working on songs with Scott Wittman and Marc Shaiman, and that first overwhelming rush of thrill and fear had diluted to something quite real, so it was exciting knowing that Lin and I were going to be playing cohorts and kindred spirits.

Mary Poppins is notoriously mysterious, and Jack is a brand-new character written for the film. How did you figure

out who these two were to each other?

BLUNT They have a chemistry that comes from a place of really understanding each other and what the magic’s all about. Jack is such a hopeful character and so effervescent, and she senses that in him.

MIRANDA He grew up alongside the Banks kids, but he was the kid shining shoes outside while they were living in the house. And [the Bankses] had written off their relationship with Mary Poppins, but Jack never forgot. Jack sees Mary Poppins and remembers it all for the magic that it is.

Emily, what’s it like to play a character with so many blanks you can’t fill in?

BLUNT The mystique is what I love. Because she is so open to your interpretation of what you feel Mary Poppins is, I

didn’t mind the unknown of it. It’s something for me to imagine my version of what I think she is and where she goes next and who she looks after. Who knows?

What can you say about Mary that you couldn’t have before filming began?

BLUNT I actually feel the thing I discovered most—which she would be surprised to hear because it’s so *not* how she presents herself—is that she’s the most empathetic character I’ve ever played. There’s nothing manipulative about her generosity. She expects nothing in return; she makes it completely a voyage of self-discovery for you, for [the Banks] family. And then she leaves. I think that’s probably the ultimate form of empathy, to recognize what people need and give it to them and not expect anything in return.





Rob Marshall sets the scene for Blunt

THE *Magic* MAKERS

*How Mary Poppins
found a new voice*

There's no room for error when it comes to Mary Poppins. "My goal was to pay great respect and honor the first film but create something completely new and original," says director Rob Marshall, who considered the world of Poppins untouchable until Disney proposed he revisit P.L. Travers' books—and he found more story to tell. "It's in my blood. It was the first film I saw," he says. "I didn't want to be that audience member who came to see it and thought, 'Oh, they blew it.' I wanted to treat it with great care."

Marshall's first step was assembling a team of like-minded fans: producer John DeLuca, *Finding Neverland* screenwriter David Magee, and *Hairspray* songwriters Marc Shaiman and Scott Wittman. The quintet met for months to craft a story from Travers' series and test songs on Emily Blunt and Lin-Manuel Miranda. "We had the luxury of having them sing every version of everything, which was a big key," says Wittman. Shaiman, who also composed the film's original score, dubs it the biggest undertaking of his career. "On every level: spiritually, physically, musically, lyrically, orchestrally," he says. "I think everyone who decided to accept the job on this movie had to deal with their own 'Oh my God,' because it's just so daunting. But you have to push that fear aside, or use it as energy." As Marshall puts it, "Everyone knew we were serving something bigger than ourselves." And, just perhaps, someone.

What was a time you were most impressed by each other on set?

BLUNT The first time I saw Lin on camera. Cameras rolling, costumed, fully rapping, bouncing up and down stairs, with props and penguins, and it's all so fast. That's when you just see, like, talent hitting you between the eyes.

MIRANDA My answer comes at the end of filming, during the final moments with Mary Poppins. And this is where you're like, "Oh, she's really a *f---ing movie star*." Because what [would be the same] for 999 out of 1,000 actors on camera, you see an entire life, an entire thought process on Emily. I watched take after take.

As the cast took shape, names were added like Angela Lansbury, Meryl Streep, Colin Firth... Tell us about some of those days on set.

MIRANDA My favorite is when Colin Firth came to set for the first time, and the kids all saw him and started singing ABBA.

BLUNT [Laughs] He was *horrified*.

MIRANDA One of the greatest moments I experienced on set was Meryl. She was sort of in weird Mary Poppins aunt mode the whole time, and at one point she goes, "Hey, kids, wanna see a perfect pratfall?" And just boom, face down, went from 90 degrees to flat. You haven't seen Buster Keaton do a pratfall like this. Everyone rushed over like, "Meryl Streep has died!" And then she just got up and was like, [wiping hands] "I learned *that* at Yale."

How about Dick Van Dyke's cameo?

MIRANDA No acting required.

BLUNT Just grinning. Lin and I were supposed to assist Dick up onto a desk.

MIRANDA We were supposedly spotters.

BLUNT He just waved us away. He was so game and so agile.

MIRANDA That was also the most emotional day. He has this beautiful monologue, but then he also [off script] sang "Feed the Birds." I never saw the end of *Mary Poppins* until high school because when I was a kid, that melody was so sad, I would burst into tears and turn off the movie. So to have him [singing] those notes, which still wreck me to this day...it was very tough holding it together.



BLUNT That was the day that Rob cried, hard. Dick finished his speech and there was a huge pause and no one was saying "Cut." That was when we all realized that this really was the next chapter and what an honor it was to carry this on.

Had you felt the need to compartmentalize the gravity of all this?

BLUNT I did [hear] the preamble of everyone turning to me—including a friend who said, "You've got balls of steel." I just tried to allow all of that to be white noise and approach [Mary] as I would any other character. Rob kept it so intimate that you didn't feel the bigness too much. We focused on this story and these people and this moment. But then when Dick Van Dyke came on set, it was quite disarming for everybody, I think, in an extraordinary way.

This set seemed enchanted. Was it hard to adjust to normal life afterward?



(From top)
Colin Firth's
bristly bank
manager
welcomes
Jane (Emily
Mortimer)
and Michael
(Ben Whi-
shaw); Dick
Van Dyke's
Mr. Dawes Jr.
steps in time

BLUNT There's always a bit of a loss when you end a project, especially one as clearly magical and life-shifting for both Lin and I like this. But I fell more easily back into step because I had been working with children the entire time and then went back to my life with my own children.

MIRANDA You hear that cliché of actors saying, "I don't watch my movies," and I'd always go, [*whispers*] "You're full of crap." But this was the first time I got it, the experience of making a film being a joy in and of itself. It was almost like, this movie doesn't ever have to see the light of day—I had the best eight months of my life. But it permeates what you see on that screen.

Should Mary Poppins return again?

BLUNT I remember when we shot the arrival scene from the skies, I was 50 feet in the air and so scared. Rob blared the music from the speakers as I was coming in, this incredible score, and it helped combat my fear. And as I landed, one of the camera guys came up and said, [*Cockney accent*] "I got really choked up watchin' you arrive there." And it reminded me how I think people really need a film and a moment like this—for hope to reappear from the skies. Maybe we didn't realize how much we wanted her to come back. ♦

STREEP *the* LIGHT FANTASTIC

Before Meryl Streep called Mary Poppins Returns a gift to the world, she called it something else entirely: crazy

Meryl Streep was not supposed to look like this. Her *Mary Poppins Returns* character, Topsy—Mary's reluctantly upside-down cousin whom the nanny visits to fix a broken Banks family heirloom—was designed to be straight out of Old Hollywood. "A Louise Brooks, Theda Bara kind of thing," says the 69-year-old legend. But then Streep went in for her fitting and met costume designer Sandy Powell, clocked Powell's flaming red hair, "and thought, 'Oh no, I'm going in another direction here.'"

The unexpected pivot reflects both Streep's character and her experience on *Mary Poppins Returns*, which she joined specifically for Rob Marshall, who directed her in 2014's *Into the Woods*. "Rob knew that I wanted in on whatever it was he did next," Streep recalls. "But I had no idea what he had in his head.

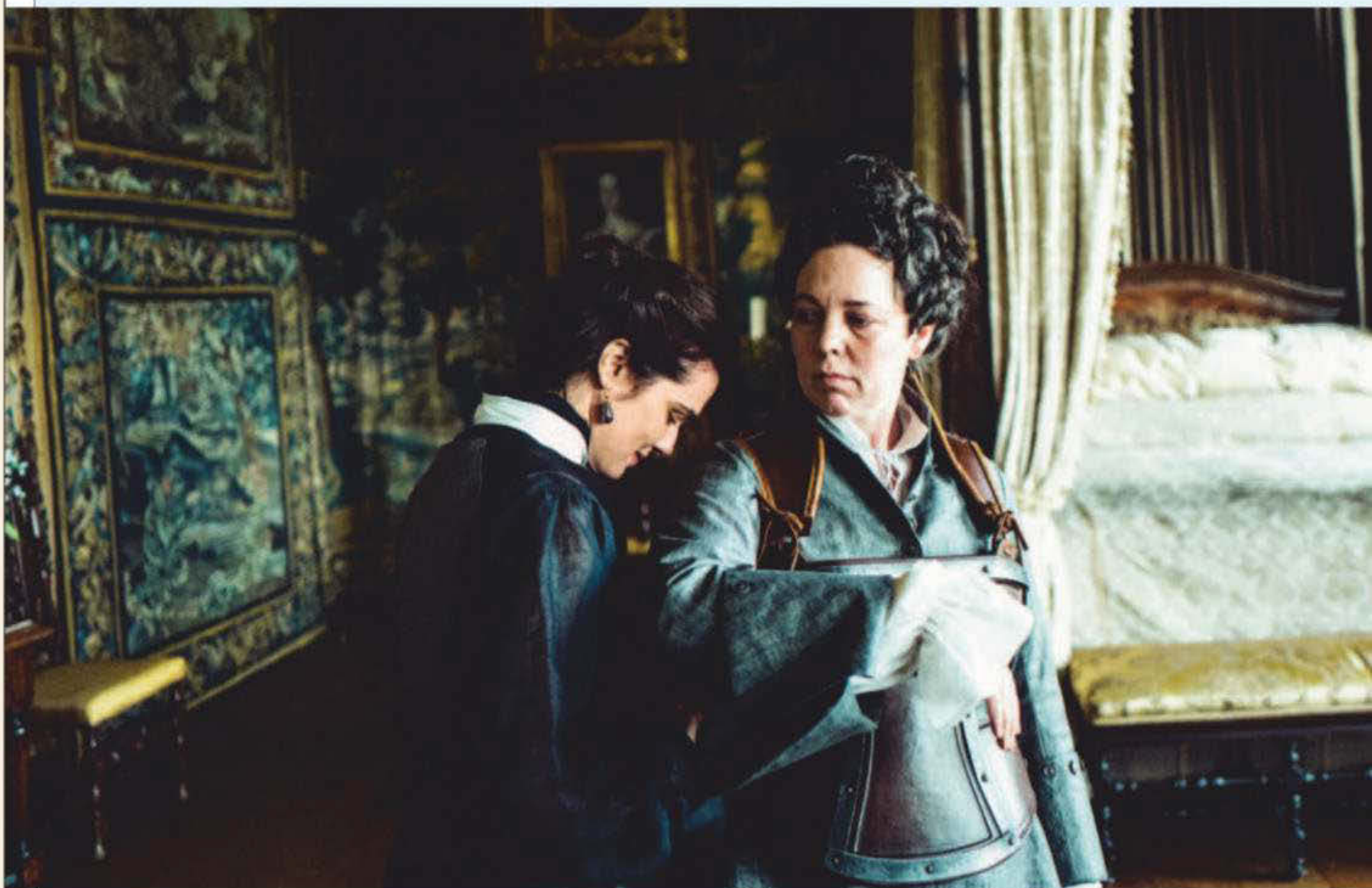
And when he [and producer John DeLuca] invited me to talk through this idea, I thought 'They've lost their minds.' " She laughs. "It was such a big vision, and it was so ambitious that I said, 'I want to be in it, absolutely.'"

And the crazy just kept coming. In the film, Streep sings a gypsy-jazz song called "Turning Turtle," a rapid rhymer that sends Topsy dancing and dangling from harrowing heights. "The first day I walked in, I was 67 years old and Rob pointed to the chandelier and said, 'Now, you go up these steps, then jump off, then you'll twirl around on that.' I almost got out my return ticket." Fortunately, no one—not even Meryl Streep—can really say no to Mary Poppins.

Meryl Streep's Topsy involuntarily spends every second Wednesday upside down



PLUS 10 MOVIES



— PAGE 22 —

THE FAVOURITE

DIRECTOR

Yorgos Lanthimos

STARRING

Olivia Colman, Rachel Weisz, Emma Stone

DATE

11.23

WHEN ONE HEARS THE TERM “PERIOD piece,” things like duck races and voguing don’t instantly spring to mind. But that’s why, in part, Yorgos Lanthimos’ delightfully eccentric, coal-black comedy is so unique. “His imagination is radical, fierce, bold, intensely original,” says star Rachel Weisz of her director. “There’s no explosions or CGI or space-ships, but—as low-tech as it is—it’s



TO SEE DURING THE HOLIDAYS

The holidays are busy, so you may want to mark your calendars now to check out these films rolling in through the rest of 2018—there's a little something for everyone on your list



Behind closed doors, Queen Anne (Olivia Colman, right) plays favorites (or *favourites*) with Lady Sarah (Rachel Weisz)

high-, high-, high-caliber imagination.”

Set in England in the early 18th century, the film focuses on the later reign of Queen Anne (Olivia Colman), who struggles to rule while battling various ailments, both physical and mental. Anne's closest ally within the palace is her childhood best friend and clandestine lover, Lady Sarah (Weisz). Their bond is threatened with the arrival of Sarah's cousin Abigail (Emma Stone), who plots to become Anne's BFF with the cutthroat ambition of an 18th-century Eve Harrington. Lanthimos, who directed Weisz and Colman in 2016's *The Lobster*, had the cast rehearse for weeks prior to production to help familiarize the actors with one another. “It's more about having fun and exploring things and being silly and being bold to try things,” explains Lanthimos of the time. “By the end of it, everyone felt comfortable enough with their colleagues to not be embarrassed by whatever they did on the day.”

Case in point, a hilariously anachronistic dance between Sarah and Samuel (Joe Alwyn), featuring the aforementioned “Vogue” moves. Weisz and Alwyn worked with Argentinean choreographer Constanza Macras to craft the elaborate sequence, which mimics the film's quirky tone. “Then, of course, we had to do it in our costumes—him in heels, and me in heels and a corset and a six-foot train of the dress,” says Weisz. “Some of the moves just didn't work because of costumes, so we had to rethink them. It was really a wonderful challenge.” —TIM STACK

Spider-Man: INTO THE SPIDER-VERSE

DIRECTORS Bob Persichetti, Peter Ramsey,
and Rodney Rothman

STARRING Shameik Moore, Jake Johnson

DATE
12.14

A SPIDER BITE. A NEW YORK teen. An attempt to balance great power and responsibility. Screenwriters Phil Lord and Chris Miller's animated adventure may seem like your typical Spider-Man movie, but the similarities stop there: *Spider-Verse* centers on Miles Morales (voiced by Shameik Moore), who teams up with Spideys from different universes—

including the original Peter Parker (Jake Johnson)—to stop an interdimensional threat. But first, Miles has gotta figure out how to be Spider-Man—while still staying true to himself. “He's got all of these Spider-People who are trying to give him advice and Mr. Miyagi him,” Miller says. “He has to take all that stuff and turn it into his own thing.” —DEVAN COGGAN

Spider-Man in the Mirror: Miles Morales (Shameik Moore)



Foster kids Isabela Moner, Julianna Gamiz, and Gustavo Quiroz meet their foster grandparents, Michael O'Keefe and Julie Hagerty—Rose Byrne's parents and Mark Wahlberg's in-laws



INSTANT FAMILY

DIRECTOR Sean Anders

STARRING Rose Byrne, Mark Wahlberg

DATE 11.16

“WHENEVER I’D TELL [OUR] story, people were always fascinated by it,” Sean Anders says of the origins of his new film, *Instant Family*, about a childless couple who decide to become foster parents. The *Daddy’s Home* director drew from personal experience for the story, integrating his own family history of going from zero to three children overnight. “Everybody had the same reaction: ‘Wow, I had no idea that’s how it worked!’” That’s how Rose Byrne—who plays newly christened mom Ellie in the movie—reacted. “I was really naive about the foster-care system,” she tells EW. As Ellie and husband Pete (Mark Wahlberg) consider becoming foster parents, they enter a program consisting of classes, group discussions,

and even adoption picnics, where foster children and parents looking to adopt converge at a sunny outdoor event. Before long, Pete and Ellie are overwhelmed raising their three new foster kids, siblings (including a teenager) wrestling with serious abandonment issues.

This could make for the stuff of overly earnest drama, but *Instant Family* finds biting comedy instead: in the caustic dynamic between Pete and Ellie, the chaos of family dinners and school pickups, and the pitch-perfect weariness of Tig Notaro and Octavia Spencer as veteran foster-program coordinators. “This subject is often depicted in a grim way,” Byrne explains. “But this is about bringing joy.”

—DAVID CANFIELD

RALPH

Breaks the Internet

DIRECTORS

Phil Johnston and Rich Moore

STARRING

John C. Reilly,
Sarah Silverman,
Taraji P. Henson

DATE

11.21

In the sequel to 2012’s *Wreck-It Ralph*, good luck saying no to Yesss (Taraji P. Henson), a charismatic algorithm of a meme-making website. She sees the viral potential of videogame character Ralph (John C. Reilly) after he and arcade pal Vanellope (Sarah Silverman) arrive online. “She’s a straight-no-chaser person who speaks the truth, and I totally identified with that,” says *Empire* star Henson, whose character speaks the truth of a critical lesson that social media newbie Ralph finds out the hard way.

“We need to tell children today to stop paying attention to internet comments and bullies. It’s a real conversation I think the entire audience will identify with.” If we could, we’d retweet. —MARC SNETIKER

Yesss (Taraji P. Henson) is the internet’s viral queen of hearts; her assistant Maybe (Flula Borg), not so much





Justin Theroux as Melvin Wulf with Felicity Jones and Armie Hammer as the Ginsburgs

ON THE BASIS OF SEX

DIRECTOR

Mimi Leder

STARRING

Felicity Jones,
Armie Hammer

DATE

12.25

WHEN MIMI LEDER WAS APPROACHED to direct a film about the extraordinary life of Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, she knew she didn't want to make a biopic. Instead, she tells EW, she saw the film as "the origin story of a modern-day superhero."

Felicity Jones transforms into a young RBG alongside Armie Hammer as her longtime husband, Marty Ginsburg, in *On*

the Basis of Sex, which follows Bader Ginsburg's first-ever case, which she and Marty, a tax lawyer, fought for a bachelor who was refused a Social Security benefit for in-home caretakers on the basis that he was a man. The landmark case impacted more than a hundred discriminatory laws.

"It's a film about finding power on a personal level," Leder explains. "I wanted to make a story about how change can happen."

"It's also a love story," Jones says. The Ginsburgs' marriage is at the core of the film as Marty supports his wife through her Harvard education, her teaching post at Rutgers Law School, and her work with the American Civil Liberties Union. Within their household exists a utopia of equality, both parents sharing household duties and raising their children together.

"That's what's fascinating about Ruth. She fights for both men and women," Jones says. "Equality for everyone ultimately creates a much better society. Stereotypical gender roles are limiting for everyone." —PIYA SINHA-ROY



Super soaker: Aquaman (Jason Momoa) holds back the tide



AQUAMAN

DIRECTOR

James Wan

STARRING

Jason Momoa, Amber Heard, Patrick Wilson, Nicole Kidman

DATE

12.21

SEVENTY-SEVEN YEARS AFTER THE King of the Seven Seas was introduced by DC Comics, Aquaman gets his first stand-alone big-screen film, courtesy of filmmaker James Wan. The *Furious 7* helmer has created a part-land,

part-underwater globe-trotting adventure tale that stars hulking former *Game of Thrones* actor Jason Momoa, 39, as Arthur Curry, who's struggling to prevent a war between the underwater kingdoms and the world on land. Here we see Curry in the wake of a tidal-wave attack on the Atlantic coastline, set off by his eco-warrior brother, King Orm (Patrick Wilson). "Orm is throwing our warships and waste back onto the land," Wan reveals. "It's a warning sign of what's to come." And if you think you have a clear sense of the movie from previously released materials—including photos and the five-minute-long trailer—you actually don't, Wan says. "The trailer and images don't really do it justice. The crazy part is there's so much movie that what's out there has barely scratched the surface." So to speak. —**JAMES HIBBERD**

Vice

DIRECTOR

Adam McKay

STARRING

Christian Bale,
Amy Adams,
Sam Rockwell

DATE 12.25



Christian Bale
as Dick
Cheney and
Amy Adams as
wife Lynne

MUCH HAS BEEN MADE OF how Christian Bale bleached his eyebrows and gained about 40 pounds to play Dick Cheney in *Vice*, but for writer-director Adam McKay, the transformation wasn't complete until Bale did the "Cheney walk." "The hair stood up on my arm," McKay says with a laugh. *Vice* follows

Cheney from lowly White House staffer to VP. Although it may not be the most conventionally festive movie, McKay hopes it will become part of your holiday traditions. "What better thing

is there on Christmas morning when your children run downstairs and rip open the presents than to see Dick Cheney sitting under your Christmas tree?" —**DEVAN COGGAN**



Leah Remini (right) requested "real wine" in this scene with friend and costar Jennifer Lopez

SITCOM VETERAN LEAH

Remini admits she likes making TV over movies, but a text message from Jennifer Lopez persuaded her to join *Second Act* (without reading the script) as Joan, the sassy accomplice to Lopez's career-driven Maya, who fudges her way into a high-ranking corporate job. What made it to screen, according to Remini, are largely improvised scenes between the real-life best friends. "That's her real reaction to me; she rolls her eyes if I grab her boob or annoy her, and annoying her makes me laugh," Remini explains. They even got slaphappy filming one key scene: "I'd slap her; she slapped me back so hard it made me cry from laughter.... When you have a real relationship with somebody, you can't write that stuff." —**JOEY NOLFI**

Second ACT

DIRECTOR Peter Segal

STARRING

Jennifer Lopez, Leah Remini,
Vanessa Hudgens

DATE

12.21



Blindfolded Malorie (Sandra Bullock) sees no evil

BIRD BOX

DIRECTOR *Susanne Bier*

STARRING *Sandra Bullock, Trevante Rhodes, John Malkovich*

DATE 12.21

In this postapocalyptic thriller, monsters target sight—once you see one, you die. But to director Susanne Bier, *Bird Box* isn't just a vision-centric version of *A Quiet Place*. "They'll inevitably get compared," she says. "But I have to admit, I don't see a lot of similarity." The plot toggles between flashbacks of the worldwide horror's immediate aftermath and the present, with heroine Malorie (Sandra Bullock) desperately seeking shelter with two children. "It's a thriller about motherhood," Bier explains. "[Malorie's] very forceful, very uncompromising. She's a very contemporary female hero." You'll see. —SHIRLEY LI

ROMA

DIRECTOR

Alfonso Cuarón

STARRING

Yalitza Aparicio, Marina de Tavira, Diego Cortina Autrey

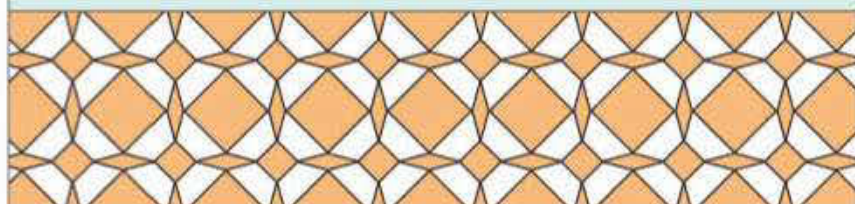
DATE

12.14

IN JUNE 2016, IN THE SMALL MEXICAN village of Tlaxiaco, Oaxaca, Yalitza Aparicio had just earned her degree in primary education and was looking for a job as a teacher. A film production was holding casting sessions nearby, and Yalitza's sister, who was pregnant at the time, persuaded her to audition in her stead. The filmmaker was Alfonso Cuarón, and the film was *Roma*.

Aparicio's first-ever acting role sees her starring as Cleo, the live-in maid to a

On a rare day off, Cleo (Yalitza Aparicio) catches up with her friend Benita (Clementina Guadarrama)



Also

PLAYING

middle-class family in Mexico in 1971, following her through a year of trials and joys that she encounters in her day-to-day life. It's a love letter, Cuarón explains, to his own family's maid—the woman who helped raise him as a child—and a dissection of class and race.

"I'm talking about a character based on one of the people that I loved the best in my life, and I have the recognition that she comes from a completely different microcosm, a completely different universe," says Cuarón.

The Oscar-winning filmmaker crafted his story in black and white, with sweeping shots that roll alongside the otherwise mundane lives of Cleo and her employer Sofia, who deals with her own struggles, managing her mischievous children while her husband keeps extending an international work trip. Cleo's tale is both heart-wrenching and full of simplicity and love.

"The idea was to portray these invisible women that are so important in these families," Aparicio tells EW. "It's an honor for me to be able to portray this woman in this film because [she's] indigenous and lower-class; she has to overcome a lot of obstacles." —PIYA SINHA-ROY

Fantastic Beasts: The Crimes of Grindelwald Nov. 16

Newt Scamander (Eddie Redmayne) is back and a little more wizened to the Wizarding World, as familiar *Harry Potter* friends (um, Dumbledore!) join him in the hunt for a master of the dark arts, Gellert Grindelwald.

Green Book Nov. 16

In this based-on-a-true-story dramedy, Mahershala Ali plays a concert pianist who takes his first touring trek through the Deep South in the early 1960s, with a driver (Viggo Mortensen) who's pulling double duty as security.

Robin Hood Nov. 16

This timeless tale of an outlaw robbing the rich to give to the poor is led by *Kingsman* franchise star Taron Egerton, with Jamie Foxx on hand as John and Ben Mendelsohn—naturally—as the villainous Sheriff of Nottingham.

Creed II Nov. 21

Michael B. Jordan returns as boxer Adonis Creed, now tasked to fight the son of Ivan Drago (he of *Rocky IV* fame).

Vox Lux Dec. 7

A girl who survives a school shooting finds her voice through music. That girl then grows up to be one of the biggest pop stars in the world, played by Natalie Portman.



If Beale Street Could Talk Dec. 14

Director Barry Jenkins' follow-up to 2017's Best Picture Oscar winner, *Moonlight*, is this adaptation of James Baldwin's 1974 novel centered on Fonny and Tish, a young Harlem couple whose lives are thrown into disarray when Fonny is wrongly accused of rape.

Bumblebee Dec. 21

Hailee Steinfeld plays Charlie, a teen girl who stumbles on a busted old car that turns out to be—surprise!—a Transformer.



Welcome to Marwen Dec. 21

Steve Carell plays a man who's victimized by a violent crime and uses miniature making—of a World War II village, no less—as a means of coping and recovery.

Destroyer Dec. 25

We see Nicole Kidman as two versions of her character, LAPD cop Erin Bell: In her younger years, she's undercover but being lured into a seedy crime world with her partner (Sebastian Stan); as the older, grizzled detective, she plucks through the clues of a murder to smoke out her enemy.

Taron Egerton and Jamie Foxx take aim in *Robin Hood*



HOLIDAY TV MOVIE ROUNDUP

THIS YEAR'S HOTTEST DESTINATION IS... FREEZING VERMONT

Christmas TV movies often take place in generic wintry towns with names like Holiday Falls, but the Green Mountain State serves as the setting for four films this season: A plan to reunite three brothers with their mother on live TV goes haywire in Chad Michael Murray's **Road to Christmas** (Hallmark Channel, Nov. 10), while a reunion of three sisters takes a twist in **Last Vermont Christmas** (Hallmark Movies & Mysteries, Nov. 19). A beloved bookstore may be sold in **Christmas Around the Corner** (Lifetime, Dec. 14), and a woman who is taking over her retiring mom's lifestyle business helps a young girl in Vermont welcome home her deployed father in **Entertaining Christmas** (Hallmark

Channel, Dec. 15). Pair these flicks with a pint of Ben & Jerry's, naturally. Oh, and better luck next year, Maine.

YOU CAN GO HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS

Lifetime will serve as Reunion Junction this year: **My Christmas Inn** (Nov. 21) features *Sister, Sister* alums Jackée Harry, Tia Mowry-Hardrict, and Tim Reid, while **The Christmas Contract** (Nov. 22) reconvenes *One Tree Hill* stars Hilarie Burton, Robert Buckley, Danneel Ackles, and Antwon Tanner, complete with a Tyler Hilton musical performance. Meanwhile, **Jingle Belle** (Nov. 25) offers up *The Cosby Show*'s Keshia Knight Pulliam and Tempestt Bledsoe, and **The Christmas Pact** (Dec. 2) reunites *A Different World* onscreen spouses Kadeem Hardison and Jasmine Guy.

MEET THE HARDEST-WORKING ELVES

Some actors get into the Christmas spirit. Others wrap themselves in it tightly and don't let go. Lori Loughlin and Erin Krakow do their usual *When Calls the Heart* holiday stint—this year it's **When Calls the Heart: The Greatest Christmas Blessing** (Hallmark Channel, Dec. 25)—while the former also stars in **Home-grown Christmas** (Hallmark Channel, Dec. 8) and the latter in **Marrying Father Christmas** (Hallmark M&M, Nov. 13). Don't

forget about Ashley Williams, who can be found in **Christmas in Evergreen: Letters to Santa** (Hallmark Channel, Nov. 18) as well as **Northern Lights of Christmas** (Hallmark M&M, Dec. 2). One actress even does double duty in the same film: Vanessa Hudgens plays a duchess and her commoner look-alike in **The Princess Switch** (Netflix, Nov. 16).

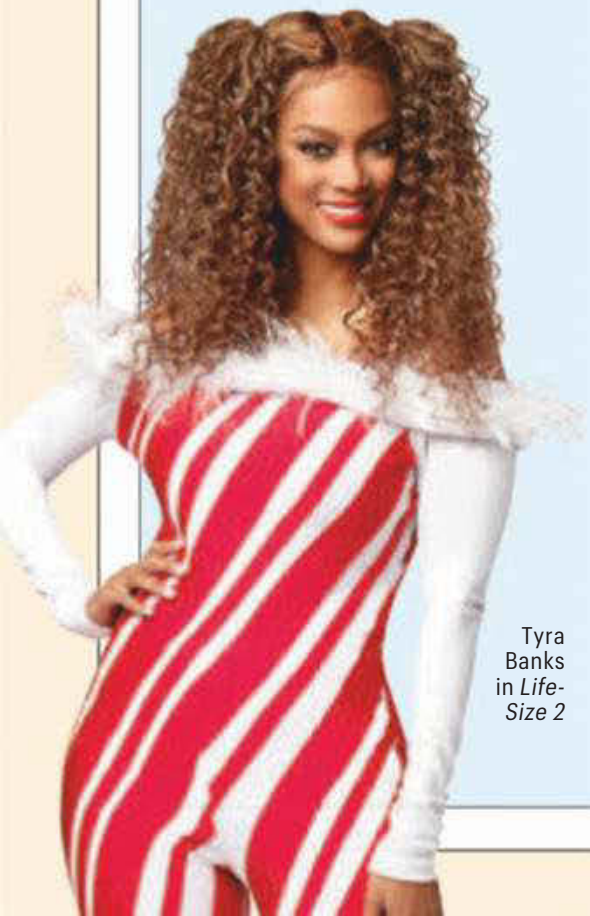
TOY STORIES

Toy companies and toy stores are ringing up drama all over the place. In **Life-Size 2** (Freeform, Dec. 2), Tyra Banks reprises her *Life-Size* role as Eve, and this magical doll

helps a misguided CEO of a toy company get on track. Then there's **The Truth About Christmas** (Freeform, Nov. 25), which spotlights a political consultant who loses the ability to lie after a confrontation



Lori Loughlin in *Home-grown Christmas*



Tyra Banks in *Life-Size 2*

LIFE SIZE 2: ERIK ASLA/FREEFORM; HOMEGROWN CHRISTMAS: CROWN MEDIA; VERY NUTTY CHRISTMAS: LIFETIME



There are about 80 new original Christmas flicks sledding your way in the next two months (with Hallmark alone gifting you 37).

How to manage this much mistletoe, merriment, and mix-ups? Let us pop down your chimney and help. **BY DAN SNIERSON**

with a Santa in a toy store. And speaking of dustups, or at least mix-ups, two single parents accidentally wind up with each other's toy gifts in **A Twist of Christmas** (Lifetime, Dec. 1).

APP-ETITE FOR HOLIDAY ROMANCE

'Tis the season to hit the slopes—and the dating apps—as three movies swipe into romantic drama. In **Christmas Cupid's Arrow** (ION Television, Nov. 25), an unlucky-in-love professor meets a handsome lawyer on a dating site, and his messages fall into Cyrano territory, while in **Mingle All the Way** (Hallmark Channel, Dec. 1),

a networking-app founder becomes her own customer and gets matched with someone she previously met/disliked. There's an old-school twist to Sarah Drew's **Christmas Pen Pals** (Lifetime, Dec. 15), as the creator of a failing dating app, who's trying to reinvent the courtship model, signs up for an anonymous pen-pal service and rights (writes?) some romantic wrongs in her own life.

LET'S GET BAKED

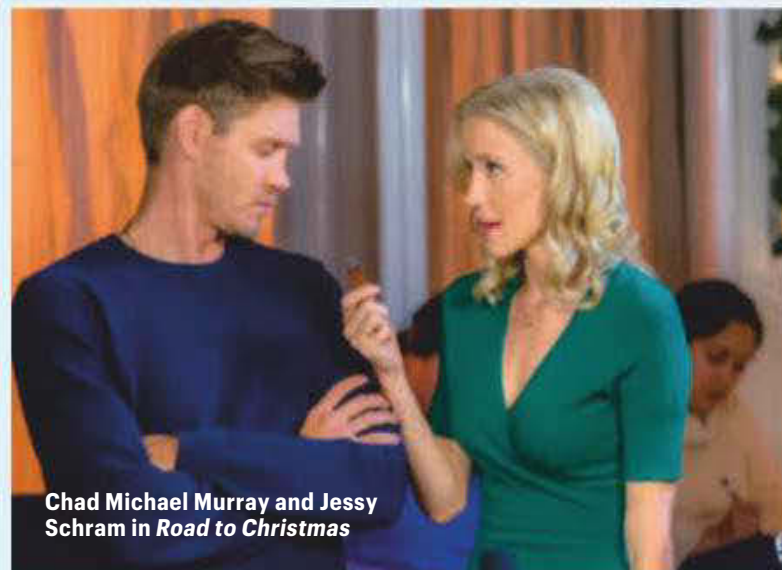
It's not officially the holidays until the smell of [insert elderly relative's patented [calorie bomb] comes wafting from the kitchen, so the networks are cooking up a half-dozen appropriately themed movies: A big-city exec wants to streamline a quaint bakery in **Christmas in Love** (Hallmark Channel, Nov. 11); **A Very Nutty Christmas** (Lifetime, Nov. 30) features Melissa Joan Hart as a freshly single bakery owner who may find unlikely romance with the Nutcracker Prince; and **A Christmas in Tennessee**

Barry Watson and Melissa Joan Hart in *A Very Nutty Christmas*

Kellie Pickler and Wes Brown in *Christmas at Graceland*



Tia Mowry-Hardrict and Rob Mayes in *My Christmas Inn*



Chad Michael Murray and Jessy Schram in *Road to Christmas*

(Lifetime, Dec. 9) centers on a daughter, mother, and grandmother who run a bakery. Plus, it's game—and oven—on with a Cookie Crawl cooking competition in **Christmas Joy** (Hallmark Channel, Nov. 12) and a gingerbread-house-building contest in **A Gingerbread Romance** (Hallmark Channel, Dec. 16).

OUT OF TUNE

There is no shortage of music-themed movies, and two include country singers in a good ol' pickle: **Country Christmas Album** (ION, Dec. 15) centers on a fading country star who is forced to record a Christmas album

with a former teen heartthrob/pop star, while the Blake Shelton-produced **Time for Me to Come Home for Christmas** (Hallmark M&M, Dec. 15) sends a writer's-blocked country star on a road trip with a small-town businesswoman after their flight is canceled. Meanwhile, a singer named... Harmony has been ditched by her pop-star boyfriend in **Christmas Harmony** (Lifetime, Nov. 24); a businesswoman played by Kellie Pickler sings the blues—at Elvis' house, no less!—in **Christmas at Graceland** (Hallmark Channel, Nov. 17); and a scrappy singer and successful record exec swap bodies in **A Christmas Switch** (UPtv, Nov. 10). Coming this spring: *Freaky Good Friday?*



MERRY-MAKING

MUSIC



Surprise the music lover on your list with fresh tunes

TINSEL TOURS

John Legend is so into Christmas, he has a themed album, TV special, and concert. Here is what he and 10 other artists have planned for the stage this holiday season.

BY EW STAFF

TRANS-SIBERIAN ORCHESTRA

The Ghosts of Christmas Eve
NOV. 14-DEC. 30

MANNHEIM STEAMROLLER

Mannheim Steamroller Christmas
NOV. 14-DEC. 30

OAK RIDGE BOYS

Shine the Light on Christmas Tour
NOV. 14-DEC. 23

JOHN LEGEND

A Legendary Christmas Tour
NOV. 15-DEC. 30

MICHAEL McDONALD

Michael McDonald Live
NOV. 21-DEC. 21

PENTATONIX

The Christmas Is Here! Tour
NOV. 25-DEC. 22

AMY GRANT AND VINCE GILL

Christmas at the Ryman
NOV. 28-DEC. 23

MARIAH CAREY

All I Want for Christmas Tour
DEC. 1-DEC. 17

YO LA TENGO

8 Nights of Hanukkah With Yo La Tengo
DEC. 2-DEC. 9

BARRY MANILOW

A Very Barry Christmas
DEC. 6-DEC. 16

SHE & HIM

A Very She & Him Christmas Party
DEC. 6-DEC. 10

Rock the Halls

Looking for a new album to spice up your cooking, gift wrapping, or mistletoe smooches? These 10 LPs aim to become a part of your holiday tradition. BY EW STAFF

MICHAEL McDONALD

Season of Peace

"I've always had a dream that I'd write a Christmas song that might resonate with people during the holidays... to write that song that you might hear year after year."



DAILEY & VINCENT

The Sounds of Christmas
Have a merry bluegrass Christmas

PENTATONIX

Christmas Is Here!

Aca-Xmas

JD MCPHERSON

Socks

Retro rockin' around the Christmas tree

JOHN LEGEND

A Legendary Christmas

EGOT what you want for Christmas

INGRID MICHAELSON

Songs for the Season

"Like A Charlie Brown Christmas, I want people to have my record be there while they're baking, or cooking, or getting ready for their holiday, or just sitting around with friends drinking."



DAVID ARCHULETA

Winter in the Air

Glad tidings from an American Idol alum



ERIC CLAPTON

Happy Xmas
"Slowhand" gets in the spirit

THE MONKEES

Christmas Party
Hey, hey, it's the holidays!



MIKE LOVE

Reason for the Season

Beach Boy Bethlehem bops

JAMES PATTERSON PRESENTS

CATCH FIRE.

A prisoner in the Demon King's palace, one girl is about to discover the *power of love* and the *price of freedom*.

SOMETIMES, LOVE IS AN INSURRECTION.



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—JULIE C. DAO, author of *Forest of a Thousand Lanterns*

“Girls of Paper and Fire cuts you deep and leaves you breathless for more.”
—ASHLEY POSTON, author of *Heart of Iron* and *Geekerella*

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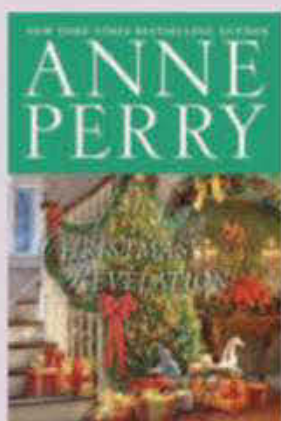




BOOKS TO COZY UP WITH

Winter is coming: Time to snug up to the cozy-mystery genre. And what goes better with literary crime and hygge than a warming beverage?

BY LEAH GREENBLATT



A CHRISTMAS REVELATION
Anne Perry

The Plot

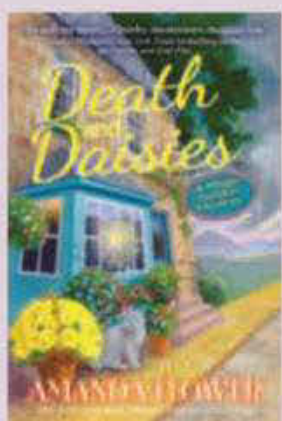
An orphan called Worm sees a beautiful young woman being assaulted in the street; can he save her from a dark fate, and still have time to learn the true meaning of Christmas?

Critic's Take

The book is bite-size, so the mystery's not much, but Perry slips in some good Dickensian details—and even a little *Peaky Blinders*-style grit—with her velvet-trimmed holiday spirit.

Drink Pairing

Something sweet and era-appropriate, like a nice rum punch. Blend rum with cognac, citrus, cranberries, and ginger ale; light with a match. (After second cocktail, maybe skip the fire bit.)



DEATH AND DAISIES
Amanda Flower

The Plot

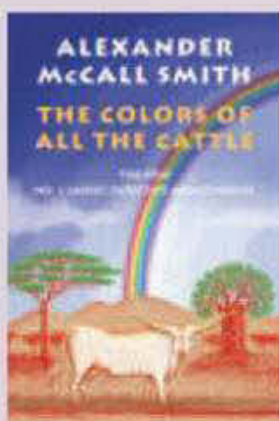
Nashville expat Fiona inherits her godfather's cottage in rural Scotland and opens her own little florist shop in the village, but trouble blooms when a body washes up.

Critic's Take

If you love Hallmark Channel movies, seed catalogues, and very mild magical realism, Flower's (yes, that's her real name) *Daisies* is made for you. Otherwise, find another bouquet.

Drink Pairing

A strong, peaty whiskey sounds right. And to balance out the buzz, a warm mug of spiced chai—Fiona's favorite drink in the town pub.



THE COLORS OF ALL THE CATTLE
Alexander McCall Smith

The Plot

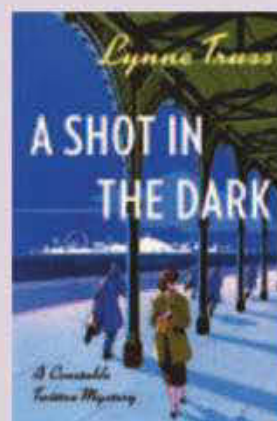
The 19th installment in the No. 1 Ladies' Detective Agency series sees Mma Precious Ramotswe suddenly entering local politics and junior PI Charlie investigating a hit-and-run.

Critic's Take

Cracking the case is mostly incidental; *Cattle* is more interested in capturing the intimate rhythms of daily life in Botswana—and women in particular—in wise, gentle prose.

Drink Pairing

Stay on the continent with a wine from one of South Africa's award-winning vineyards, like a 2015 Syrah or 2016 Chenin Blanc.



A SHOT IN THE DARK
Lynne Truss

The Plot

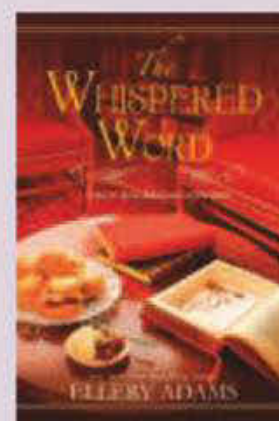
Crime is low in the sunny seaside town of Brighton, England, circa 1957, until a despised critic meets his end in a crowded theater, exposing the iceberg tip of a criminal underworld.

Critic's Take

Truss, author of the best-selling grammar manual *Eats, Shoots & Leaves*, writes with the dry old-timey wit of a BBC radio play, which *Shot's* bumbling police force has its origins in.

Drink Pairing

Brighton Bier is the local gold standard, though you can substitute any pale ale. Then top with a scoop of vanilla ice cream and watch it float, just like a body off the pier.



THE WHISPERED WORD
Ellery Adams

The Plot

A teenager turns up bruised and traumatized in Nora's North Carolina bookshop. It will take several sketchy deaths to find out who she is, and how she connects to the town's secrets.

Critic's Take

The still life of books and scones on the cover makes *Word* seem sillier than it is; in fact, it's a love letter to reading, with sharp characterizations and a smart central mystery.

Drink Pairing

BYO moonshine, infused with peaches or apple cinnamon—not just because it's the South, but because it's central to a scene in the book. But lay down a carb base first and eat that scone.



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Movies

Edited By | KATIE HASTY @KATIEHASTY



"Robert is a real human who did something quite extraordinary," says Chris Pine about his character. "I hope we showed that."

HISTORY OF AN OUTLAW

In David Mackenzie's gritty *Outlaw King*—starring **Chris Pine** as King of Scots, Robert the Bruce—the Scottish director sets out to show his country's history is far more sonorous than Mel Gibson's cry for freedom. **BY RUTH KINANE**

What made you want to bring this story of Robert the Bruce to the screen?

DAVID MACKENZIE I wanted to tell the story because Robert has got lost in history. People have kind of always thought of another character—who will remain nameless at the moment—as the hero, and it felt like a weird injustice and a slight dishonesty in the telling of history. So I wanted to get in there and try and do something that was closer to reality and obviously still entertaining.

CHRIS PINE I liked that it was really hard to pin down Robert's motivations. From all of the scholars

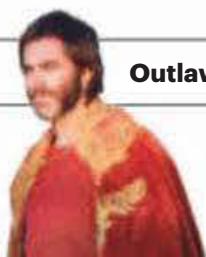
I talked to and the books that I read, the fascinating thing about the man was that you couldn't tell where his loyalties lay and what motivations were propelling him. He was a mystery to most people. I found playing that slipperiness really exciting; some people might want more straight-ahead illumination of a guy, but I found that kind of ambiguity really interesting.

How was mastering the Scottish accent?

PINE It was difficult to get an accent to be organic that is so foreign from my own. There were particular sounds that

THE 10-WORD REVIEW >

Outlaw King (Limited, Netflix; Nov. 9) Muddy, bloody, Braveheart-y Chris Pine gets medieval on King Edward. **B+** —CHRIS NASHAWATY



REEL NEWS

- **Stuck in the Sarlacc Pit** Sources told EW that the Boba Fett stand-alone *Star Wars* movie, which was never officially announced, is now unofficially no longer in development.
- **Totally Buggin'** A *Clueless* remake is in early development at Paramount, with *Girls Trip* writer Tracy Y. Oliver producing and *Glow* writer Marquita Robinson penning the script.



David Mackenzie, Florence Pugh, and Pine shoot the couple's elaborate nuptials

I stumbled on, but also just getting the musicality of the language down. I didn't want it to be a movie about an accent; I didn't want people to not believe I was Scottish, but I also couldn't draw too much attention to it and away from the story.

Florence Pugh is such a powerful force as Robert's second wife, Elizabeth. How was working with her?

MACKENZIE Chris and Florence had a fantastic chemistry, and it was very obvious that these two were right for each other. She brings a real, easy authenticity to Elizabeth and inhabits what she's doing in a way that's incredibly fresh. It's amazing that she is so honest for someone so young.

PINE She's an incredible talent. It was important for me to have a partner who felt like she came from the earth and was really strong, powerful, and grounded—and Florence was that. She was a delight to work with, and I can't wait to see what she does in the future.

What do you hope people will learn from this movie?

PINE For me, the most important thing in the film is something Angus (Tony Curran) says to me when I find out what's happened to my family: "This is the price you pay." That was always deeply meaningful to me. We're dealing with some major acts of violence propelled by many different ideologies—country, family, flag, nation—and there are deep, significant, real prices that have to be paid for that. It's not always pretty, but it happens all over the world. Robert's a real person that did something quite extraordinary but had much destruction after it. We should take a hard look at why we do it and the people who do it.

MACKENZIE We were trying to get under the skin of 14th-century life and the idea of what it must've been like to struggle with occupation and trying to unite your own country and do all the things that Robert does in the film. I wanted to give the audience an opportunity to think about those things.

Green Book

STARRING Viggo Mortensen, Mahershala Ali | **RATING** PG-13

DIRECTED BY Peter Farrelly | **LENGTH** 2 hrs., 10 mins.

REVIEW BY Leah Greenblatt @Leahbats

VIGGO MORTENSEN HAS PLAYED NEARLY everything on screen—Amish barn raiser, Russian Mob fixer, backwoods radical, Tolkien warrior-king—but he's never been a mook. It's almost impossible to picture the fine-boned Danish-American actor as Tony "Lip" Vallelonga until you see him up there, all marinara-sauced vowels and Brylcreemed hair, working his bada bing like Joe Pesci's chin-dimpled brother.

As a Bronx security man who agrees to drive a black musician (Mahershala Ali) through the Deep South circa 1962, he has by far the showiest role in Peter Farrelly's winning dramedy, and it might finally earn him the Oscar he's long deserved. The movie wouldn't work, though, without the elegant, understated balance of his counterpart. Ali's Dr. Don Shirley is a brilliant piano maestro, celebrated in the world's finest private homes and concert halls—he's performed twice for the sitting president and lives in a lavish apartment above Carnegie Hall—but he's never toured below the Mason-Dixon. He also doesn't quite know what to do with a man like Tony, with his bearish habits and blunt-force personality.

Green Book is inspired by a true story, and the script, by Farrelly, Brian Currie, and Vallelonga's real-life son Nick, hits many of the beats you'd expect. The bigotry the pair encounters ranges from politely insidious to outright savage; the odd-couple bonding happens inevitably, in picturesque fits and starts. But it's hard to overstate how charming it all is, and how much both actors make the material shine. (Linda Cardellini is great, too, in a small but pivotal role as Tony's wife.) In a world that seems to get uglier every day, the movie's gentle heart and mere humanity feel like a salve. **B+**

Two for the road: Mahershala Ali and Viggo Mortensen





↑ Jingle bells, dangle all the way: Benedict Cumberbatch as the Grinch

Dr. Seuss' The Grinch

STARRING Benedict Cumberbatch, Rashida Jones, Angela Lansbury

DIRECTED BY Yarrow Cheney and Scott Mosier | **RATING** PG

LENGTH 1 hr., 26 mins. | **REVIEW BY** Leah Greenblatt @Leahbats



YOU HAVE MET HIM in a book, you have seen him on a screen;

in musicals and *Seussical* and Jim Carrey scary green. Would a heart be three sizes too small to say we do not need another *Grinch* at all? (Maybe, though not nearly as annoying as an all-rhyming movie review.)

The latest animated iteration of Christmas' most famous nemesis might not be strictly necessary, but it's still pretty fun—and freshened up just enough to feel new. The narrator is Pharrell Williams; the great rebooted theme song is

by Tyler, the Creator; Benedict Cumberbatch, valiantly shedding everything British, is the voice of our peevish, acid-hued antihero. He still looks like an angry centipede who swallowed a guava, and he still hates the holidays with the heat of a thousand winter suns. But it's not hard to find the soft heart beneath the he's-a-mean-one scheming.

Cumbergrinch lives alone above the twinkling gingerbread village of Whoville with only the loyal, yappy Max—who is somehow both a house pet and a butler—for

company. And how he loathes the happy Whos: the sweet boy making a snowman; the jolly neighbor (Kenan Thompson) stringing up lights; bouncy, pigtailed Cindy-Lou (Cameron Seely), who just wants to catch Santa Claus in the act so she can ask him to help her overworked single mom (Rashida Jones). So he's hatched a plan to impersonate the big man with the help of Max, a red suit, and a morbidly obese reindeer.

Illumination, the studio behind *Despicable Me*, makes it all look richly dimensional, and wisely doesn't push the story past the 90-minute mark. Kids could still watch the peerless 1966 original, though their blooming little cortexes will probably respond to the shiny-bright novelty here—and be spellbound by a tale almost as old as color television, but still evergreen. **B+**

THE RANK

BENEDICT CUMBERBATCH'S SONGS OF THE SEASON

The voice behind the latest version of Dr. Seuss' Grinch has some hot takes about the coolest Christmas tunes.

BY MAUREEN LEE LENKER

BEST

"ONCE IN ROYAL DAVID'S CITY"

The British actor says he loves singing this classic at carol services: "It always moves me. The child solo at the beginning and then the choir coming in and then the congregation—the thing growing in sound. Beautiful, so effective."

"THE TWELVE DAYS OF CHRISTMAS"

"It's great for numeracy. It's great for memory. What's not to love? And it goes on and on and on."

"BABY, IT'S COLD OUTSIDE"

This Oscar-winning song was first sung by Esther Williams and Ricardo Montalban. "It's just a bit odd. You think, 'Hang on, just have one more drink? She really wants to go.' This isn't appropriate behavior. This is nonconsensual. She should go. I don't know how it plays in the #MeToo era, but the dance of it in the original piece is a beautiful thing."

WORST



The Girl in the Spider's Web

STARRING Claire Foy, Sverrir Gudnason

DIRECTED BY Fede Alvarez

RATING R | **LENGTH** 1 hr., 57 mins.

REVIEW BY Chris Nashawaty @ChrisNashawaty

▶ WAS ANYONE HONESTLY STARVING for another Lisbeth Salander movie? So far, the franchise adapted from Stieg Larsson's coach-class best-sellers has been one of diminishing returns. The original Swedish film trilogy starring Noomi Rapace kicked things off with an urgent blast of #MeToo cyber-punk energy. And David Fincher's *The Girl With the Dragon Tattoo*, with Rooney Mara, looked slick as hell, even if some of the Scandinavian gloom got lost in translation. Now a miscast Claire Foy adopts the hacker vigilante's black leather and badass avenging-angel attitude for *The Girl in the*



↑ James Bondage? Claire Foy in *The Girl in the Spider's Web*

Spider's Web—a disappointingly safe, by-the-numbers action-thriller.

Salander has always been the franchise's marquee draw. Still, a big part of the saga's spiky, live-wire appeal came from the interplay between her traumatized character and journalist Mikael Blomkvist. As played this time around by *Borg vs McEnroe*'s Sverrir Gudnason, though, he's a passive afterthought; worse, the pair have zero chemistry. Instead, Foy, with her distractingly clipped Swedish accent and robotic

inscrutability, is plopped into a derivative cat-and-mouse plot about a stolen computer program that controls the world's nuclear arsenal. Snooze. With its palette of chilly slate grays and smattering of unremarkable action sequences, *Spider's Web* will likely be a letdown for fans who once embraced Salander's bold queerness and bleak nihilism. Now she's just another interchangeable Hollywood action hero. I'd be shocked if she returned for another sequel—and a bit relieved if she didn't. **C**

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↑ Willem Dafoe: An artist in contemplation

Paint Like van Gogh

In *At Eternity's Gate*, **Willem Dafoe** plays the renowned painter in the last years of his life. Here's how the actor learned to paint IRL.

BY MAUREEN LEE LENKER

WILLEM DAFOE CALLS

At Eternity's Gate—Julian Schnabel's Vincent van Gogh biopic—"a film about a painter by a painter." To fully embody the 19th-century artist, Dafoe learned to paint under Schnabel's tutelage so he could re-create the process on screen. "We started very primitively: how to mix the materials, how to hold a brush, how to touch the canvas. Once you're able to get those actions, he started teaching me how to look at things," the 63-year-old tells EW of Schnabel's lessons, which emphasized creating a *representation* rather than a replication. "You'd make these

marks. I'm talking about touching the canvas, putting color next to color," Dafoe explains. "You don't just try to reproduce the tree. You're looking at it in a much more fundamental way. To take my time and really see what I see... For a long time, it looks very abstract, but with time it starts to move and find its own rhythm, and it vibrates."

According to the star, if you want to paint like van Gogh, you have to aim to paint the spirit and soul of the thing. As Dafoe says, "He'd go out into nature, and he didn't invent these paintings. The painting was already there, he just had to free it."

Widows

STARRING Viola Davis, Michelle Rodriguez, Elizabeth Debicki, Colin Farrell, Liam Neeson

DIRECTED BY Steve McQueen | **RATING** R

LENGTH 2 hrs., 9 mins. | **REVIEW BY** Leah Greenblatt @Leahbats

IT'S NOT CLEAR EXACTLY WHAT KIND OF MOVIE(S) *WIDOWS* WANTS to be: feminist heist thriller? Sprawling political saga? Bare-knuckled gangster noir? Steve McQueen's latest is so stuffed with stars, styles, and big ideas, it's almost impossible not to admire what he's going for. But the Oscar-winning director of *12 Years a Slave* can only throw so much spaghetti at the wall before you wish he'd stopped at al dente.

A story centered on Viola Davis can't go too wrong, at least; she's Veronica, a former teachers'-union rep still keeping it sexy in her marriage to a man (Liam Neeson) who may or may not be a criminal mastermind. Within minutes, he and his crew are wiped out on a job gone wrong—there's a reason this thing's not called *Amicably Divorced*—and the surviving spouses are left to reckon with debts unpaid to local kingpin Jamal Manning (a softly menacing Brian Tyree Henry) and his sociopathic brother/enforcer Jatemme (*Get Out*'s Daniel Kaluuya).

While Veronica works overtime to turn a harried single mother (Michelle Rodriguez), a moonlighting babysitter (Cynthia Erivo), and an emotionally fragile trophy wife (Elizabeth Debicki) into a makeshift suicide squad, the script zigs between concurrent subplots about the Mannings and a Chicago family dynasty whose dirty fingerprints are all over city politics (Robert Duvall is the mad paterfamilias; Colin Farrell, trying on a flat Midwestern accent, is his reluctant prodigal son). It's entertaining enough for popcorn—and gratifying, too, to watch these smart, strong women step into roles they're so often left to support from the sidelines, while men have all the contraband fun. If only the execution of it didn't feel like such a crazy-quilt patchwork of other, better films, and so jaggedly stitched together. **C+**

↓ Reluctant partners in crime Viola Davis and Cynthia Erivo



THE BALLAD OF BUSTER SCRUGGS: NETFLIX; NOBODY'S FOOL: CHIP BERGMANN/PARAMOUNT; BOHEMIAN RHAPSODY: ALEX BAILEY/FOX; EL ANGEL: BTEAM PICTURES; HERE AND NOW: PAUL SCHIRALDI; THE NUTCRACKER AND THE FOUR REALMS: LAURIE SPARHAM/DISNEY



↑ Tim Blake Nelson as Scroggs

The Ballad of Buster Scruggs

STARRING Tim Blake Nelson, Zoe Kazan

DIRECTED BY Joel and Ethan Coen

RATING R | **LENGTH** 2 hrs., 12 mins.

REVIEW BY Chris Nashawaty @ChrisNashawaty

PRESENTED AS A WESTERN anthology of six short genre-tweaking tales, Joel and Ethan Coen's *The Ballad of Buster Scruggs* feels, not surprisingly, a bit scattershot and episodic. Bankrolled by Netflix, whose deep pockets allow for this sort of experimentation, the film is a decidedly mixed bag. Two of the chapters stand with some of the best work the merry-prankster filmmakers have ever done, while the rest are varying degrees of okay. If you're the kind of person who enjoys eating dessert before the main course, you'll be happy to know that the first sagebrush chapter is the strongest. In it, Tim Blake Nelson plays a sunny singin'-and-gunslingin' cowboy who has a habit of talking so much that he winds up getting into a heap of high-noon duels. Nelson's performance and the Coens' mastery of tone are giddy dynamite.

From there, things go downhill as a bank-robbing James Franco, a gold-prospecting Tom Waits, and a traveling promoter played by Liam Neeson (who sees dollar signs in a mathematical chicken) all swing by without leaving much of an impression. Only Zoe Kazan's segment—a bittersweet wagon-train romance that veers into tragedy—recaptures the film's front-loaded promise. *The Ballad of Buster Scruggs* is a warm and cheeky tribute to a genre the Coens clearly love. It's a shame it's just not a bit more consistent. **B**

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ROM-COMS

NOBODY'S FOOL | Directed by Tyler Perry
Starring Tiffany Haddish, Tika Sumpter **W**

In a rare R-rated outing for Perry, Haddish plays a raunchy ex-con living with her uptight sister (Sumpter). Haddish has a few moments to shine before the film dissolves into fluff. **C**

IN A RELATIONSHIP | Directed by Sam Boyd
Starring Emma Roberts, Michael Angarano, Dree Hemingway, Patrick Gibson **L**

This story about commitment-phobic, L.A.-dwelling twentysomethings isn't the most original movie concept, but some genuinely funny moments make it feel a little less flimsy. **B**



BIOGRAPHICAL

BOHEMIAN RHAPSODY | Directed by Bryan Singer
Starring Rami Malek **W**

Rhapsody may be a conventional rock biopic in nearly every respect, but it has the gift of an utterly unconventional star in Malek. **B-**

BOY ERASED | Directed by Joel Edgerton
Starring Lucas Hedges, Nicole Kidman, Russell Crowe **L**

A well-intentioned and intermittently poignant coming-of-age horror story about a teen wrestling with his sexual identity and parents who send him to conversion therapy. **B**

THE FRONT RUNNER | Directed by Jason Reitman
Starring Hugh Jackman **L**

This political drama charts the fall of Gary Hart in broad, Aaron Sorkin-lite strokes, with Jackman as the self-destructive senator blind to the rise of tabloid journalism. **C+**

EL ANGEL | Directed by Luis Ortega
Starring Lorenzo Ferro, Chino Darin **L**

Ferro is hypnotic as a teenage thief and sociopath without a care in the world. Ortega's hip, darkly comic import is Argentina's submission for the Best Foreign Film Oscar. **B+**



EXISTENTIAL CRISES

HERE AND NOW | Directed by Fabien Constant
Starring Sarah Jessica Parker **L**

Parker stars as a singer diagnosed with a brain tumor in a maudlin drama that never feels more than meandering. **C-**

THE NUTCRACKER AND THE FOUR REALMS
Directed by Lasse Hallström and Joe Johnston
Starring Mackenzie Foy, Keira Knightley, Misty Copeland **W**

Clara (Foy), reeling from grief, wanders into a fantasy world in Disney's new holiday film, which has too many realms and not enough nutcracker. The lone dance sequence is wonderful, but all else is CGI blandness. **C**



KEY **L** > LIMITED RELEASE **W** > WIDE RELEASE

TV

Edited By | PATRICK GOMEZ @PATRICKGOMEZLA

WHAT A DRAG!

The library is now open: EW chats exclusively with the queens of **RuPaul's Drag Race All Stars** (premiering Dec. 14 at 8 p.m. on VH1).

BY JOEY NOLFI

1

TRINITY TAYLOR

Season 9, 3rd place

"I'm here to finish what I started," says Trinity, whose fashion has evolved from "pageant-y and gaudy" to "edgier and more fun." She's even evoking divine intervention from her nun persona, Sister Mary Koont: "She blessed me."

2

MONIQUE HEART

Season 10, 8th place

The "facts are facts" queen is poised to shake up the show's vocabulary again. "[This season] it's 'the goop,'" says Monique, who promises she'll wear "other animals" in addition to "a few brown-cow-stunning moments."

3

GIA GUNN

Season 6, 10th place

Gia Gunn's first *Drag Race* experience led to a creative rebirth and



↑ The season 4 all-stars striking a pose

allowed her to embrace her identity as a trans woman. "I'm more comfortable with my body," she says. "If I hadn't gone through my transition, I don't think I would have been ready to come back."

4

JASMINE MASTERS

Season 7, 12th place

"We get a lot of 'jush' in there," Jasmine Masters says, evoking her all-purpose catchphrase to describe *All Stars* 4. The meme queen also anticipates her "funny" personality will inspire more internet gold: "Whatever [fans] make a meme out of, I'll love them."

5

NAOMI SMALLS

Season 8, 2nd place

The most sickening legs to grace the main stage are clicking back with a more assured glamazon in control. "I have a better understanding of how to play the game," Naomi states. "If it was about turning looks, bitch, I would've gotten the crown a long time ago." She also promises "good drama": "Everyone in the cast—besides Farrah Moan—is pretty realistic about life, [but] there are definitely some big egos, and I'm one of them."

6

LATRICE ROYALE

Season 4, 4th place

The grandest *Drag Race* dame wants the lip-synch shenanigans to stop. "Looking like you're in a refrigerator box with shoulder pads out to here? There's no mystery that you're going to take that off for a reveal," says Latrice Royale. "Get back to basics."

7

VALENTINA

Season 9, 7th place

The woman behind the mask-that-wouldn't-come-off

LOG LINES

- **Walking to the Movies** Andrew Lincoln has left *The Walking Dead*, but AMC will air three spin-off movies that follow his character's new journey.
- **Game On!** *Thrones*' Lena Headey will voice a villain on Nickelodeon's *Rise of the Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles*.



admits her "iconic elimination" provided "the perfect arc to continue" into *All Stars*. "If I lip-synch again, I'm going to have to redeem myself," says Valentina, who says she's on a "different maturity level" this season.

8 MONÉT X CHANGE Season 10, 6th place

The mother of sponge eleganza sashayed into season 10 with broom in hand, literally ready to sweep her foes away. Now, she's upped her arsenal of cleaning products for AS 4: "There will be some ShamWow!s and

some yellow gloves. We're still cleaning up the motherf---ing competition, girl."

9 MANILA LUZON Season 3, 2nd place

"Drag has changed so much," the O-est OG of the all-stars says of the "new challenge" she's facing returning to *Drag Race*. "It's growing up and learning new things and applying that to the competition," Manila says. "It's nice to come back and show what I'm capable of after I've had the opportunity to become a drag superstar."

10 FARRAH MOAN Season 9, 8th place

Her AS 4 mood board includes Swarovski crystals, pink, tears, and a distinct resistance to the "whiny, obnoxious" persona she took on during her first season. "I was so young and naive, [but] I definitely came for blood this season." As for her relationship with Valentina, Farrah says things are "pretty good" despite feeling like her season 9 sister "will never love" her: "There's too much love for herself there."

HO, HO, HO!

RuPaul spreads Christmas cheer—and a competitive spirit—in *RuPaul's Drag Race Holi-slay Spectacular* (Dec. 7 at 8 p.m. on VH1). BY JOEY NOLFI

With cheeks nice and rosy (and contoured for the gods), fan-favorite alums Trixie Mattel, Shangela, Kim Chi, Eureka O'Hara, Jasmine Masters, Latrice Royale, Mayhem Miller, and Sonique will sashay their way back into the Werk Room in a one-off competition for the title of Drag Race Xmas Queen. "The fashion is jolly AF," Eureka O'Hara says of the special's runway lewks, which serve a wintry mix of styles from festive fare to dark interpretations of holiday classics. Todrick Hall also choreographs seasonal cheer into several musical productions. "Honey, we're delivering some '80s extravaganza," O'Hara continues. "And, you know, Kim Chi almost fell." Some dance moves might score a lump of coal, but each queen wants the same thing stuffed into her stocking: a crown. "Everyone wants to win," O'Hara says. "And you can feel it."

Mayhem Miller, RuPaul, Trixie Mattel, and Sonique



TV



2018 Holiday Specials Roundup

A sampling of programming that's making spirits bright this winter. **BY MAUREEN LEE LENKER**

A LEGENDARY CHRISTMAS WITH JOHN AND CHRISSY

NBC, NOV. 28, 10 P.M.

John Legend and Chrissy Teigen are joined by friends, family, and other well-known faces in this NBC special. Legend will perform songs off his new album, *A Legendary Christmas*, and we can only assume Teigen will cook up some holiday-themed tweets. Er, treats.

THE WONDERFUL WORLD OF DISNEY: MAGICAL HOLIDAY CELEBRATION

ABC, NOV. 29, 9 P.M.

Jordan Fisher and Sarah Hyland host this event, featuring lighting spectaculars from Disney Parks around the world, and musical guests Gwen Stefani, Meghan Trainor, Brett Eldredge, and more.

NAILED IT! HOLIDAY

NETFLIX, DEC. 7

Nicole Byer and Jacques Torres host this yuletide-themed competition where all hell could bake loose as terrible home cooks attempt to recreate edible holiday treats for a shot at \$10,000. Stream to see if the gingerbread housing market crashes.

I LOVE LUCY CHRISTMAS SPECIAL

CBS, DEC. 14, 8 P.M.

Lucy, you've got some celebrating to do... For those craving a classic Christmas, *I Love Lucy* is returning to CBS with the colorized "The Christmas Episode" (1956) and a newly colorized episode, "Pioneer Women" (1952). *The Dick Van Dyke Show* also joins the party with two newly colorized episodes hand-picked by creator Carl Reiner.

SCHITT'S CREEK: HOLIDAY EPISODE

POP, DEC. 19, 10 P.M.

And you thought your Christmas was Schitty. In the Pop series' first holiday offering, Johnny Rose (Eugene Levy) wants to have an old-fashioned Christmas, but his family has as much spirit as Ebenezer Scrooge. Wife Moira (Catherine O'Hara, camping it up) is anti-Christmas-tree shopping, while daughter Alexis (Annie Murphy) is double-booked and son David (Levy's real-life son, Dan Levy) shirks his decorating duties. Of course, the Roses eventually rally around Johnny and learn the true meaning of Christmas.

A LEGENDARY CHRISTMAS WITH JOHN AND CHRISSY: F. SCOTT SCHAFER/COLUMBIA RECORDS/NBC; NAILED IT! ADAM ROSE/NETFLIX; I LOVE LUCY: EVERETT COLLECTION; SCHITT'S CREEK: POP TV

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Dirty John

DATE Debuts Nov. 25 | **TIME** 10 p.m.

NETWORK Bravo

REVIEW BY Kristen Baldwin @KristenGBaldwin

▶ A DAZZLING MATCHUP OF PULP AND prestige, *Dirty John* begins with Debra Newell (Connie Britton) suffering through a montage of bad dates, her face falling almost imperceptibly with each disappointing revelation: He's condescending/a heavy drinker/still hung up on his ex. Who can blame her, then, for getting swept off her feet by a handsome anesthesiologist named John Meehan (Eric Bana), who worships at the altar of her strawberry blond beauty and wakes her up each morning with a homemade fruit smoothie?

Based on the addictive true-crime podcast, *Dirty John* is the story of a convict and con man who took catfishing to almost operatic levels. Claiming to be a doctor and a

veteran, John woos Debra—a successful interior designer in posh Newport Beach, Calif.—down the aisle, much to the chagrin of her adult daughters Veronica (Juno Temple) and Terra (Julia Garner). Adapted for TV by *Desperate Housewives* writer Alexandra Cunningham, the show blends sun-drenched SoCal romance with an undercurrent of dread, as Debra discovers that her happily-ever-after is built on a reality that isn't.

Britton is perfectly cast as Debra, a woman whose glamorous exterior masks a fear of

conflict, and a naive desire for life to be as beautiful as one of her luminous interior designs. Temple is hilarious as the churlish Veronica, snarking about John in her snotty California upspeak, while Garner captures Terra's quiet complexity. It's Bana, though, who may benefit the most from *Dirty John*; as Meehan, the actor pivots from charming to chilling and back with astonishing ease. If this performance does not free him from a career purgatory of forgettable movies (hire him, Peak TV gods!), it will be a crime. **A-**

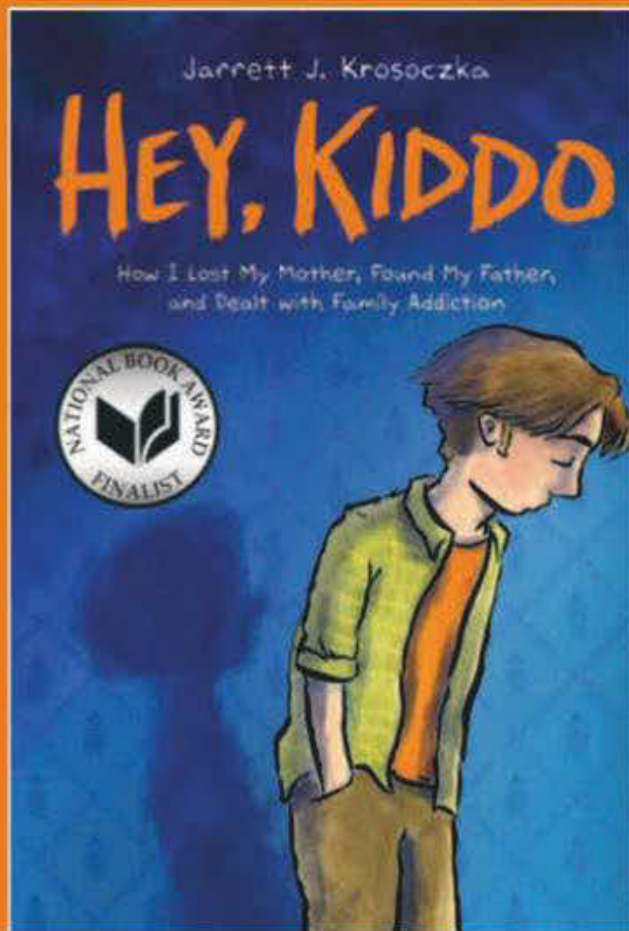


↑ Connie Britton and Eric Bana gamble on love on *Dirty John*



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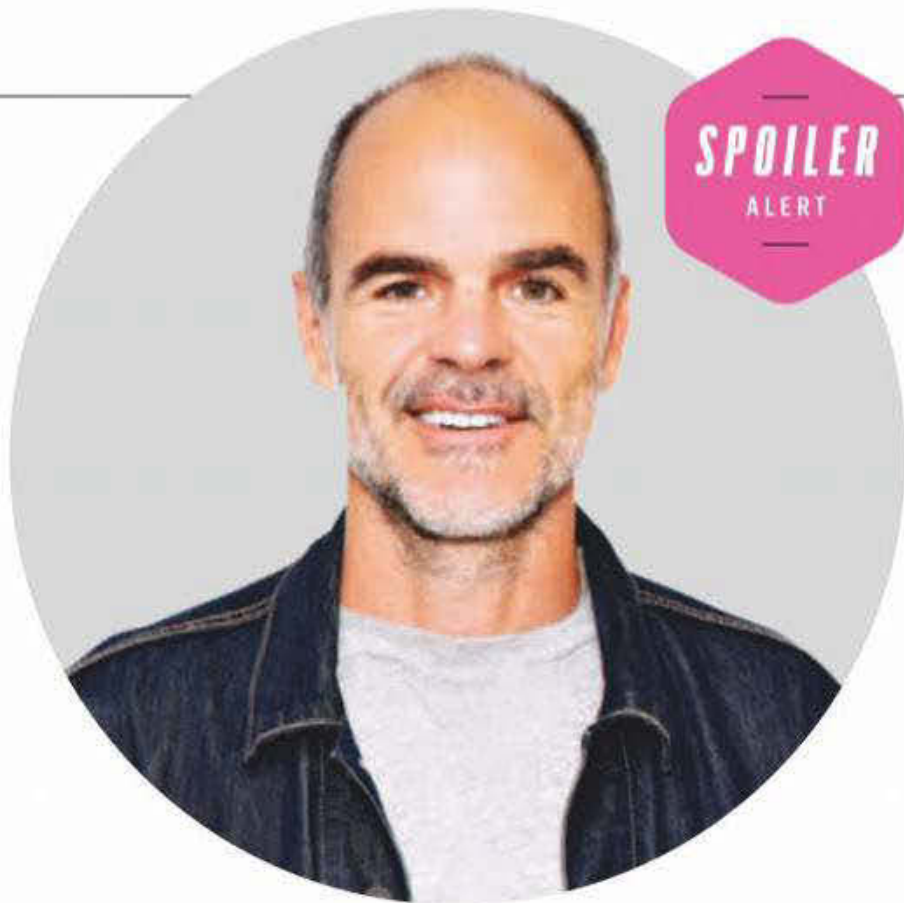
“I loved it.”

—Terry Gross, NPR Fresh Air

Watch the Trailer at
HeyKiddoBook.com



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GETTING CARDED

Actor **Michael Kelly**, 49, reflects on filming the *killer* final season of **House of Cards** (now streaming) without original star Kevin Spacey. **BY SHIRLEY LI**

In the series finale of Netflix's bloody political drama, Doug Stamper (Michael Kelly) met his end in the Oval Office when Robin Wright's President Claire Underwood—sorry, Claire Hale—stabbed him with a letter opener and suffocated him to finish the job. Now Kelly bids farewell to the series after six seasons.

Doug may be the character most closely associated with Frank, after Claire. Were you ever concerned about Doug's arc going into this season, now that he'd be missing his touchstone? I never worried, because from the very beginning, the writers have never let me down. They've always been really good to Doug Stamper, so I had faith that they would come up with something clever for him to do, even if I was in the wings, so to speak. Through all these years, I never cared about how big my role was—it was just an honor to be a part of it.

The writers killed Frank off screen to handle Kevin Spacey's firing, and the series finale revealed that Doug committed the crime. How did that twist—and the fact that Doug lives with this secret all season—affect your performance?

It's funny, if you think back to all the seasons, Doug's carrying some sort of secret. [Laughs] He's pretty good at keeping things close to the vest, but obviously this was the biggest one. In past seasons, I would know the overall arc and what I would go through—at least from season 3 on, the writers would fill me in—but with this season, I had to think everything through like a normal person rolling through life. It was an interesting challenge as an actor, certainly. You didn't know what you were going to be dealt in the next episode, because we were so under the gun. I can't even imagine what the writers went through.

They were almost done [with the season] when they learned they had to completely rework it within a couple of months.

And now the show's completely done. What do you remember of your last hours on set?

We all went to our trailers, took off all our stuff, and just rocked it out [after wrapping]. We partied in that White House with disco lights, and we were raging until, like, 4 o'clock in the morning, full-on exhausted. [Laughs] It's hard to imagine because it's such a serious show, but we had so much fun over these six years. I'll miss it.

There may be no more pain in Doug Stamper's life, but there's much more to Kelly's interview. Head to EW.com to read the full postmortem, in which he reveals the prop he kept from set, his memories of shooting his final scene, what he thinks of Claire's series-closing line, and more.

Coming Out on TV— and in Real Life

His **Grey's Anatomy** character had his first same-sex kiss on Nov. 1. Now actor **Jake Borelli** is sharing his own story. **BY MAUREEN LEE LENKER**



WHEN GREY'S ANATOMY SHOW-runner Krista Vernoff called Jake Borelli this summer to say his character, Dr. Levi Schmitt (a.k.a. "Glasses"), would be part of the first gay male romance between doctors on the hit ABC drama, the actor found himself facing his own life-altering decision: As his character made major realizations about his sexuality on network TV, would he continue to keep his real-life sexual orientation private?

Borelli, who had been out to his friends and family for nearly

a decade, immediately called his parents. "My dad said, 'When you have a truth about yourself and you have the courage to speak up, a weight gets lifted,'" remembers the 27-year-old, who joined *Grey's* last season. "I knew in that moment it was the right thing to do. This was bigger than me." So, immediately following the West Coast airing of the Nov. 1 episode of *Grey's*—in which Levi has his first same-sex kiss—Borelli took to Instagram to tell the world he is gay.

"As a gay guy myself, tonight's episode was so special to me," he wrote. "To all of you who feel like little Levis out there, know that I do too, that you are seen, and that we're all in this together."

Growing up in Ohio, Borelli says he hungered to see coming-out stories on TV, and would stay up late to watch *Degrassi: The Next Generation*. "I finally felt seen and understood by a piece of art," he explains of watching the teen soap. "Now I get a chance do that and to act in a story line I would have craved when I was younger."

Hours before going public with the news, Borelli admitted to EW he was feeling vulnerable: "As a gay guy, you have to come out all the time. People think coming out is the first time [someone] says they're gay, when in reality coming out is a constant process. I'd forgotten how intense the feelings are and how big a step it is."

Ultimately, he hopes fans can take strength from his choice to reveal this aspect of his life. "This is not just coming out for me. This is about speaking your truth, and being authentic, and really being vulnerable," he stresses. "For people who are watching, I hope it can inspire them to tell their truth, whatever that may be. It doesn't have to be about being gay. It's just about being honest."

ANATOMY OF A STORY LINE

The *Grey's* team was shocked to realize they'd never had two male docs kiss—but that's not why they wrote it.

BY PATRICK GOMEZ

"Jake is an incredible actor, and the more we wrote for him, the more we wanted to write for him," says showrunner Krista Vernoff. "The story didn't begin with 'Hey, we've never done a gay male love story.' It began with 'What are we going to do with Jake this year that's different?' Then we realized we'd never done it! It was a hugely exciting thing." Vernoff says Levi's journey was inspired by a friend she had in college. "He was a clumsy, fumbling type who'd trip over his own feet and stutter. Then he came out toward the end of our freshman year and emerged as a completely different human being because he was living in his truth," she says. "I called Jake and talked to him about [the story line] and he was really excited. He talked a lot about his own experiences and wanted to know how we'd tell the story. When I told him about my friend, that felt perfect to him. That's when we went searching for a love interest."

↓ Alex Landi and Jake Borelli in the Nov. 1 episode of *Grey's Anatomy*



What to Watch

A handy guide to solve your daily TV dilemmas*
 Edited By | GERRAD HALL @GERRADHALL



Everyone will be talking about it tomorrow

MONDAY NOVEMBER 12



Arrow

8-9PM | THE CW

In the wake of Team Arrow's dissolution, costar Echo Kellum can't get enough of Curtis Holt's new job at A.R.G.U.S. "I've always really enjoyed the Curtis scenes where he's really focusing on tech and behind a computer," says Kellum. "I love getting out in the field, too, but it's a nice change of pace to see Curtis working for a government agency." He won't be behind a desk all season, though; in this week's episode he goes undercover for A.R.G.U.S. "It's a way you've never seen Curtis before. I had a lot of fun shooting it, but it was very difficult," says Kellum. "I had to learn different languages to be in this episode. It was the fun part of it, too."

Season Premiere

Explorer

10-11PM | NAT GEO

In the premiere: nuclear-attack bunkers, and host Phil Keoghan diving into a volcano. Not the *Amazing Race* detour we would've picked.

Season Premiere

StarTalk With Neil deGrasse Tyson

11PM-12AM | NAT GEO

Science and food intersect in this episode, which features late chef Anthony Bourdain—the ultimate culinary star.



TUESDAY NOV 13



Series Debut

She-Ra and the Princesses of Power

STREAMING | NETFLIX

The '80s sword-tech 'toon is back as a funny-wonderful pop fantasy animated like disco fireworks. On war-torn planet Etheria, totalitarian trainee Adora (Aimee Carrero) finds a sword that transforms her into shimmering She-Ra. This 13-episode debut season, with its undercurrents of empowered women teamwork-ing against terror, has some repetitive plot points, but also enough princesses to launch a dozen fandoms. And Adora's frenemies Catra (AJ Michalka) is as complex as family-friendly cartoon baddies get. The (retro-) future is female! **B+**

—Darren Franich

ARROW: DIVYAH PERAI/THE CW; SHE-RA AND THE PRINCESSES OF POWER: NETFLIX; KNEIGHTLY: JEAN BAPTISTE LACROIX/WIREIMAGE; KILLING EVE: BBC AMERICA



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KEIRA KNIGHTLEY RECOMMENDS...



Killing Eve

STREAMING | AMC.COM

"Sandra Oh is absolutely amazing, but that psycho killer [Jodie Comer's Villanelle] is the only part that I've ever been really, really jealous that I didn't play.... It is such a f---ing amazing psycho, I would really have liked to put my teeth into that," Keira Knightley confesses. "Jodie was f---ing amazing.... I totally loved watching that moment when she turns around in the club and she kills [spoiler] and she's like a shark coming through that club. I just loved that so much. That image is totally stuck in my head now."



REAL COUNTRY

Jake Owen, Shania Twain, and Travis Tritt hand-select solo artists, duos, and groups in this 8-episode competition (debuts Nov. 13, 10 p.m. on USA). Twain reveals her all-time favorites in each category.



FAVORITE DUO
Twenty One Pilots



FAVORITE SOLO ARTIST
Taylor Swift



FAVORITE GROUP
Coldplay

WED NOV 14

Series Debut

Origin

STREAMING

YOUTUBE PREMIUM
Harry Potter alum Tom Felton stars on this sci-fi thriller where everyone isn't who they seem on an abandoned ship headed for a distant land. Hmmm, we have questions, like: Is this a "tiny ship" named S.S. Minnow? Are they on a three-hour tour?

The 52nd Annual CMA Awards

8-11PM | ABC
Brad Paisley and Carrie Underwood host again (11th year in a row!); performers include Kacey Musgraves, Jason Aldean with Miranda Lambert, and Garth Brooks. Will he and wife Trisha Yearwood duet for a live cooking demonstration?

THURSDAY NOVEMBER 15



Mom

9-9:30PM | CBS

Last time audiences saw Christy's daughter Violet, she had mono, called on her mom to take care of her, and then reconnected with Luke, her ex. That was two years ago, in which time Violet's "grown up a lot," says actress Sadie Calvano, and she's been developing "a fun little side project"—possibly inspired by TV-mom Anna Faris' real-life side gig: a podcast. In "Jell-O Shots and the Truth About Santa Claus," Violet's mom and grandma Bonnie (Allison Janney) are her guests, perhaps to their own dismay. "This podcast has been a really great mechanism for healing for her, and it's a really exciting thing to share with the world," Calvano teases. "Normal kids have this pretty magical 'White Christmas' concept of Santa Claus and the holiday season, and Violet's holiday season was filled with Jell-O shots and strippers." Ho, ho, ho, indeed.

FRIDAY NOVEMBER 16

The Ballad of Buster Scruggs

STREAMING | NETFLIX

Joel and Ethan Coen write and direct this Western about a gunslinger who got his moniker by combining the names of his first pet and his favorite curse word.

A Head Full of Dreams

STREAMING

AMAZON PRIME VIDEO
Filmed over 20 years, Coldplay gets intimate about their friendship, music, and more. Shocker: Yellow isn't their favorite color!

Series Debut

The Kominsky Method

STREAMING | NETFLIX

Michael Douglas stars as Sandy Kominsky, a magnetic acting coach who's outwardly cynical but endearingly gentle with his friend Norman (Alan Arkin), whose wife has terminal cancer. In this 8-episode dark comedy, the two men grapple with grief and love while navigating life's last act. **B+**

—A. Cydney Hayes



CAMILA MENDES RECOMMENDS...



Easy

STREAMING | NETFLIX

"Every episode is a different couple or a different relationship or friendship," *Riverdale* star Camila Mendes explains of the Joe Swanberg-created series featuring Jane Adams, Zazie Beetz, Dave Franco, Kiersey Clemmons, and more. She cites two episodes as her favorites: "Prodigal Daughter," a "beautiful story, a coming-of-age, but also there's an undertone of religiousness and the church...it's brilliant,"; and "Lady Cha Cha," which sees envy build between a lesbian couple when one of the women wants to be a burlesque dancer. "Jealousy is universal. [The episode] challenges every notion of modern love. It's really cool."



FIT FOR A QUEEN

Catherine Zeta-Jones plays a renowned and ruthless pageant coach on Facebook Watch's dark comedy *Queen America* (debuts Nov. 18). The Oscar winner looks every bit in charge in these fierce photos from the series.

BEAUTY QUEEN



DRAMA QUEEN



Everyone will be talking about it tomorrow

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 17

PRIME-TIME TURKEY

Barefoot Contessa: Cook Like a Pro

8-9PM | FOOD NETWORK

This Thanksgiving special features lots of side dishes, but we're here to gobble up Ina Garten's mashed potatoes done three ways. And her new BFF Jennifer Garner makes her grandma's sweet potato casserole.



SUNDAY NOVEMBER 18

Series Debut

Martina's Table

12:30-1PM

FOOD NETWORK

Country-music star Martina McBride loves cooking and sharing food as much as she does singing. Expect friends Sheryl Crow and Faith Hill...and maybe a recipe for (broken) chicken wings? Cuz that's a song... oh, never mind.

Up and Vanished

7-8PM | OXYGEN

Georgia beauty queen and school-teacher Tara Grinstead disappeared in 2005, and the mystery behind it spawned a popular podcast of the same name. In this special, go behind the scenes of the investigation and see where police are today with the case.

Series Debut

Escape at Dannemora

10-11PM | SHOWTIME

Keep up the crime-viewing with this real-life series where Benicio Del Toro and Paul Dano star as prison inmates who escape thanks to a supervisor (Patricia Arquette) who was sleeping with both men. Talk about doing hard time...



TWO-NIGHT EVENT

Jonestown: Terror in the Jungle

9-11PM | SUNDANCE TV

In November 1978, more than 900 members of the Peoples Temple sect, nearly all of them U.S. citizens, died at the cult's compound in Guyana after swallowing cyanide-laced drinks. Some took the poison voluntarily, following the orders of their leader Jim Jones—many were forced to do so at gunpoint. Co-produced by Leonardo DiCaprio, and featuring vintage footage and new interviews, this four-part documentary details the massacre in skilled, deeply harrowing fashion, while serving as a reminder about the dangers of charismatic demagogues. **B+** —Clark Collis



Devour it all at once

WE CAN'T STOP TALKING ABOUT...

The Curious Creations of Christine McConnell

STREAMING | NETFLIX

Take equal parts Martha Stewart and Morticia Addams, sprinkle on some Lana Del Ray, and you've concocted Christine McConnell, the star of this new series, who bakes, crafts, and plays hostess to a bevy of Jim Henson Company puppets. The standout is Rose, raccoon roadkill that's back from the dead and eager to find love, but less eager to bathe. Expect spooky aesthetics and drool-worthy baked creations, even if you won't be able to recreate any of them yourself. —Dana Schwartz



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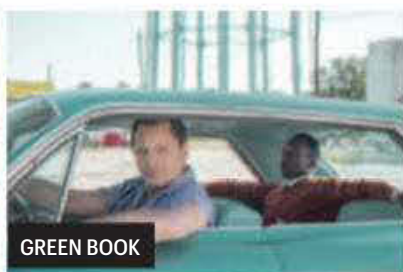
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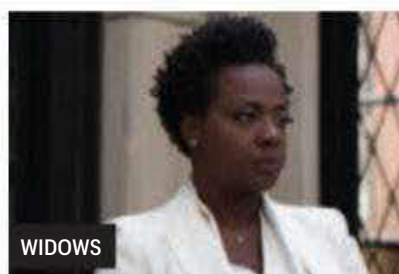
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Music

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2018 CMAs CHEAT SHEET

TROPHY COUNTRY

Carrie Underwood and Brad Paisley return to host, Chris Stapleton leads the field with five nominations, and the slate of performers—including Keith Urban, Kacey Musgraves, and Kenny Chesney—is top-notch. Below, some questions (and predictions!) about the **52nd Country Music Association Awards** (airing Nov. 14 on ABC at 8 p.m.). BY SARAH RODMAN

WHERE MY LADIES AT?

There is not a single woman nominated in the Entertainer of the Year category, and only one in competition for Album of the Year (the superb *Golden Hour* from Kacey Musgraves), Song of the Year (Nicolle Galyon for co-writing Dan + Shay's "Tequila"), and New Artist (Lauren Alaina). Given country radio's regressive attitude toward playing female artists, this isn't a huge surprise, but it remains a disappointment. If the gateway to the type of success that breeds eligibility for the top prize of Entertainer of the Year—multiple hit songs, arena and stadium tours—remains in the hands of those actively antagonistic to leveling the playing field, this will continue.

IT'S ALL IN THE DELIVERY

We can say with confidence that Brad Paisley will be unable to

resist cracking wise about cohost Carrie Underwood's pregnancy. The "Cry Pretty" singer-songwriter has two nominations—Female Vocalist and Music Video of the Year—and is performing, but we know that the chummy pair will likely have some fun with her usual frequent costume changes.

CHRIS STAPLETON WILL SNAG MULTIPLE AWARDS

Since 2015, the year he gave his breakthrough performance on the show with Justin Timberlake, the critically acclaimed Kentucky singer-songwriter with the soulful voice—equal parts gravel and heart—has won seven CMA awards (not to mention five Grammys and seven Academy of Country Music awards). He is nominated this year for Entertainer, Album (*From a Room: Volume 2*), Male



THE BEST LINE OFF VINCE STAPLES' NEW ALBUM, FM! >

"I throw a party on your block, like I'm Tommy the clown/Hundred-

NOTEWORTHY

- **What We Really, Really Want** The Spice Girls announced a reunion tour (minus Posh Spice).
- **Glory Days** Bruce Springsteen will release an album recording of his Broadway show.



← (Clockwise from top left) Kacey Musgraves, Chris Stapleton, Chris Janson, Brad Paisley, Carrie Underwood, and Miranda Lambert

Vocalist, and Single and Song of the Year ("Broken Halos"). At the very least, the prodigiously bearded troubadour is a lock for the Vocalist prize, but we're thinking his next album might be called *From a Trophy Room*.

WHO WILL GIVE THIS YEAR'S BUZZ PERFORMANCE?

In 2015 it was Stapleton and Timberlake who wowed. In 2016 it was the pairing of the Dixie Chicks and Beyoncé. Last year, in an effort to foster a sense of healing following the Route 91 Harvest Festival shooting, Darius Rucker led an all-star group of friends—Lady Antebellum, Garth Brooks, Tim McGraw, Faith Hill, and Kelsea Ballerini, among others—in a well-meaning, if slightly befuddling, version of his former band Hootie & the Blowfish's hit "Hold My Hand." Of the announced performers at press time, there wasn't an obvious contender for watercooler moment of the night. We're counting on Musgraves and Brothers Osborne to bring sparkle and sizzle, respectively.

"DRINKIN'" VS. "DRUNK"

It's a battle at the bar in the New Artist of the Year contest, with the likely front-runners being the sartorially snappy Texas trio Midland (in part thanks to their hit "Drinkin' Problem") and Chris Janson (his well-intentioned anthem "Drunk Girl" is also in contention for Song of the Year), who's finally enjoying a breakthrough after years of slogging it out. The spoiler here is Luke Combs, who came blazing out of the gate with four No. 1 hits off his 2017 debut, *This One's for You*.



Take Two for Tweedy

It's going to be a busy month for singer-songwriter **Jeff Tweedy**, whose first memoir and solo LP are set to drop. Here he talks familial inspiration and learning to love his voice. **BY ALEX SUSKIND**

JEFF TWEEDY IS obsessed with Noah's Ark. "If you take that story at face value, what the f--- were people doing that warranted slaughtering the planet that we aren't doing now?" says the Wilco frontman, whose upcoming solo LP, *Warm* (out Nov. 30), includes a song about the biblical tale. "Then there's the other appeal: the redemption of just starting over."

Redemption is also a common theme in *Let's Go (So We Can Get Back)*, Tweedy's funny and frank memoir (out Nov. 13) detailing his childhood and his time with Wilco and its predecessor Uncle Tupelo.

When Tweedy told his family he was considering writing about his life, they initially balked. "[At the time] they're all like, 'That's stupid. You're only 49 years old,'" he recalls of the feedback. "But they convinced me to do it because they thought my story might be helpful to

somebody—my willingness to be open about mental-health issues."

Indeed, Tweedy gets candid about his history with depression and drug addiction throughout. Elsewhere, he delves into how uncomfortable he was about his singing voice early on, colorfully describing it as "a pubescent warble... squeaking through an Appalachian fast food drive-through speaker." (Yes, he's happier with his voice now.)

Serving as a quasi-companion piece to the book is Tweedy's effusive new solo record. But, for the first-time author, writing a memoir was, of course, a much more daunting task. "It was a little scary," he says of piecing it together. "But once I got into it and realized, 'I can do this'... I started to enjoy that process. And by the end of the book, I was [so] sad that I was done that I kinda wanted to write another."

thousand-dollar car, bet you proud of me now/Took my mama out the set, house as big as my mouth"



MERRY MAVERICKS

Country rockers the Mavericks bring tidings of comfort and joy on **Hey! Merry Christmas!** From the naughty to the nice, singer Raul Malo and guitarist Eddie Perez reveal the secret to writing original holiday songs. **BY SARAH RODMAN**

CHOOSE THE RIGHT ENVIRONMENT TO WRITE AND RECORD—IN THIS CASE, ARIZONA

"I don't need to be in three feet of snow to write about it. The hell with that," says Raul Malo with a laugh about the desert serving as the unlikely backdrop for summoning yuletide cheer. "You just hole up, get a pen, paper, a cup of coffee, roll a joint, and go at it."

THE KEY TO TIMELESSNESS? NOSTALGIA.

"When I first heard the mix of it in the playback, it hit me in a deep-bones kind of way, like, 'Wow, that's going to be around a really long time,'" says Eddie Perez of the wistful "Christmas Time Is (Coming 'Round Again)." "We all aspire to the greats that have come before."

SANTA CLAUS NEEDS TO CUT LOOSE SOMETIMES

"He's earned it," says Malo of the bawdy, jazzy "Santa Wants to Take You for a Ride," one of eight originals on the album. "He's worked his ass off to bring a bunch of toys to a bunch of unappreciative little brats that are going to sift through it and ignore it for the rest of the year. Let's get real now. Santa's had enough of their s---. He's going to have himself a little fun too or cancel the damn thing."

EVEN MAVERICKS HAVE TRADITIONS

"As Cubans, on Christmas Eve we get together and have the big party, and there is usually pork, rice and beans," says Malo. "Sometimes we go all out and actually cook a whole pig. That's a lot of work." Perez also settles in to watch movies and specials with his wife and son, including *A Christmas Story* and *Trading Places*.

↓
"Everybody [played] multiple instruments, so it was really an orchestra," says Eddie Perez (far right)



TO BOLDLY CAROL

Star Trek icon **William Shatner** discusses teaming up with Iggy Pop and Henry Rollins, among others, for his new holiday album, **Shatner Claus**. **BY DAN REILLY**

What inspired you to record a Christmas album?

I don't know whether Lewis and Clark were told, "Hey, I got a good idea, why don't you explore?" But that's exactly what happened here. Cleopatra, the record company, said, "How would you like to do a Christmas album?" And I said, "Christmas album? Okay, I'll do that." I've worked long and hard on it. I can't

sing, but I understand the musicality of the English language. This is the final result. I've worked up to this.

You duet on "Silent Night" with Iggy Pop, whose singing voice is every bit as recognizable as your own spoken-word vocalizing. What was it like the first time you heard the finished track?

[Laughs] Well, he was off-key! It was funny. There were

two separate tracks; when we put it together, it was a little off, but they have corrections that are magical. All of a sudden it all swung into view.

You perform "Jingle Bells" with Henry Rollins. How did you two connect?

We had done a number on another album of mine, *Has Been*. Over the years, he's become a buddy. So, I approached him about doing this.

You say he's a "buddy." Do you go fishing? Bowling?

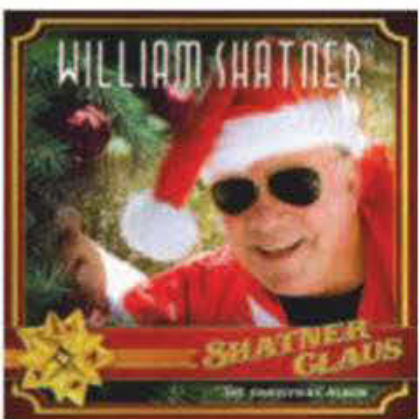
Henry nor I do any of those things. [Laughs] Henry takes his camera and a backpack, and disappears for months at a time. God knows where he goes. When he comes back, he doesn't know anybody, except me. He comes to [watch] *Monday Night Football* here in Los Angeles, and we have a grand time.

Shatner Claus is actually your second album this year, after the country collection *Why Not Me?* Do you feel people have come around to your unique way with a song?

I've got to say that this album is the epitome of what I can do. When I finished it, and listened to it, I said, "Is this as good as I think it is?" But until the audience tells you, you don't know whether it's any good or not.

What are you doing next?

Well, I've been asked to do a blues album. I'll be doing that!



Bouncing Boughs

Maroon 5 keyboardist **PJ Morton**'s first Christmas LP is a fun, unexpected spin on the usual holiday fare. He chats with EW about creating this year's surprise stocking stuffer. **BY ALEX SUSKIND**

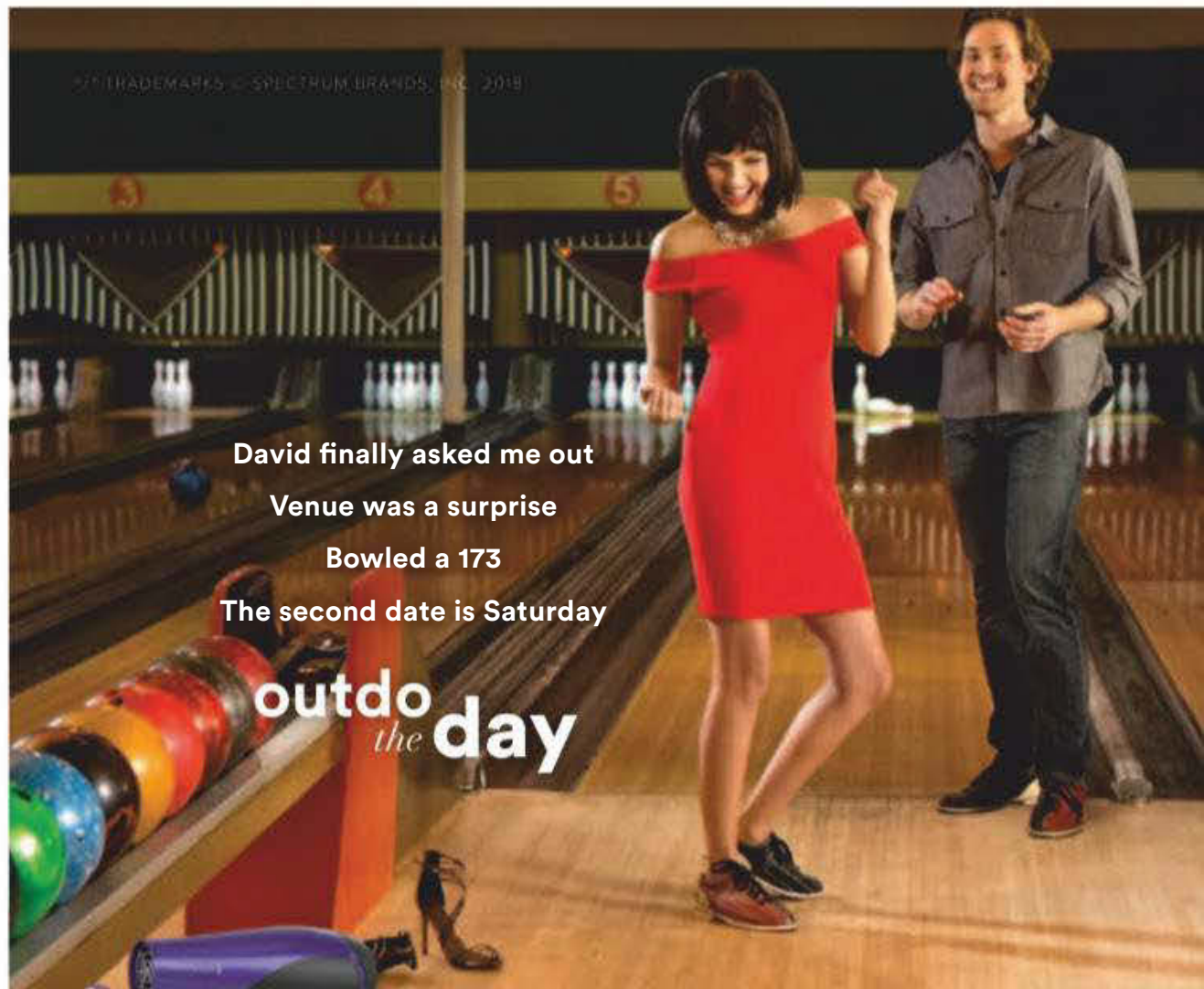
NEW ORLEANS IN JULY ISN'T the first place you'd think to record a holiday album. Unless you're musician PJ Morton, whose new record, *Christmas With PJ Morton*, injects his hometown's patented bounce beats, plus a little funk and reggae, into the old Santa-approved usual suspects.

"There's so many good standard Christmas albums, I didn't really see the purpose of doing that," says Morton, keyboardist for Maroon 5. "I knew that it had to be different."

Different was Morton taking a set of holiday classics—like "Winter Wonderland," "All I

Want for Christmas Is You"—and adding some soulful, head-bobbing grooves. He did the same for the album's two original tracks, "Do You Believe," a duet with Yolanda Adams, and "Peyton's Lullabye," named for his daughter.

Speaking of family, Morton can't wait for the rest of his clan—he's the son of two pastors—to hear his take on the songs he grew up listening to. "All my family's musical, so Christmas music was a big deal in my household," he says. "My parents are my number-one fans.... I know they'll love it."



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Picture Perfect

Big Little Lies author **Liane Moriarty** is back with yet another irresistible novel, ***Nine Perfect Strangers***. She reveals the secret to writing books that resonate with readers—and viewers—worldwide. **BY DAVID CANFIELD**

MIDWAY THROUGH WRITING

Nine Perfect Strangers, Liane Moriarty packed her bags and checked into a health resort—exactly the kind depicted satirically in her new novel, filled with guests frantic for enlightenment. Even before arriving, she fell under its spell. “I was laughing at myself as I was driving there, thinking, ‘Maybe I’ll be different when I come back,’” she remembers. She stayed for five days. She gave up coffee. She meditated. She wrote. “I stopped at the first café on the way back and had a coffee,” she admits. “But I believed!”

One could easily imagine the experience fitting into a Moriarty novel. The Australian author, 51, has made an art form out of spinning emotional journeys—that’d be easy to laugh at were they not so cringingly relatable—into twisty page-turners, from her 2003 debut, *Three Wishes*, to her 2014 smash, *Big Little Lies* (adapted into an HBO series), to, now, *Nine Perfect Strangers*. Her indelible characters develop from hilarious to heartbreaking; she slowly reveals the human being—the pain, the history, the yearning—within the caricature.

Moriarty again executes her winning formula in *Strangers*—prickly women (and a few men) confined in tight spaces, left to bicker, backstab, and lie their way toward (expertly teased) doom. Here they’re from different walks of life: an ex-soccer player, a grieving family, a bitter divorcée, a writer. They fend off dysfunction brewed by the resort’s director, Masha, who turns a mindfulness getaway

19-WORD SYNOPSIS > *One Day in December* by Josie Silver Love at first sight! But he’s her BFF’s new BF. What to do? Do you really have to ask?

BETWEEN THE LINES

• **Listen Up** This week, EW is debuting a new radio show on all things books! Join Clarissa Cruz, David Canfield, and Seija Rankin for **Shelf Life** on SiriusXM Channel 105 every other Tuesday at 1 p.m. (or on demand anytime) for exclusive interviews, commentary on the latest screen adaptations, and what you need to be reading right now.



↑ "The process of adapting *Big Little Lies* was a pleasure from start to finish," Liane Moriarty says. Above, a standoff between Bonnie (Zoë Kravitz) and Madeline (Reese Witherspoon).

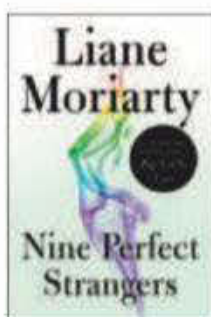
into wellness boot camp. "Our desperate desire for personal transformation is so strong that we can give up our good sense," Moriarty says. "I enjoyed making fun of that." But *Nine Perfect Strangers* isn't just satire. There's plenty more to these salvation-seeking resorters: Just when you're sure it's a comedy, the book unfurls a grim shocker.

This is how Moriarty prefers to write—on the fly, in the process of discovery, right beside her reader. She attaches extreme attributes to her characters to start, before layering them as she builds out their world. Moriarty names *Lies*' Madeline (Reese Witherspoon on the HBO show) as a good example, recalling how the first detail she wrote about her was an amusing quality, plucked right from a friend's personality—"perpetually outraged." (Moriarty later assures this was a starting point: "Madeline ended up nothing like this particular friend!") Then there's Masha, *Nine Perfect Strangers*' tyrant of green-juice-glugging and wake-ups-at-dawn, who originated from a TripAdvisor review. Moriarty scoured the travel website when she began writing and fell hard for one particular

rant. "[The guests] complained about this crazy director of their resort, banging on their door really early in the morning," she remembers. "With pleasure, I realized that I needed a crazy person to run my resort."

Yet Masha also defies the expectations set by that first impression. Key to *Nine Perfect Strangers*—and Moriarty's work overall—is that its mocking introductions are no less affectionate than the empathic shadings that follow. Moriarty's characters linger beyond the final pages, like a new friend who's moved away. The author mourns their absence too. "When I first start writing [again], I always miss my characters from my previous book," she says. "I get to know them."

At least her *Lies* ensemble has lived on. Though the



**I LOVE PEOPLE WHO
ARE ALWAYS FURIOUS
ABOUT SOMETHING."**

—LIANE MORIARTY

adaptation was conceived as a one-off by HBO, reception was so rapturous that a second season (inspired by a new idea of Moriarty's) was commissioned; it premieres next year. Now even more Moriarty characters are earning second lives. Nicole Kidman, who won two Emmys for producing and starring on *Lies*, secured rights to *Nine Perfect Strangers* months before the book was published; several other Moriarty novels are also in development (see sidebar). But the Hollywood attention isn't fazing Moriarty. "I never want to think that the film adaptation is the end result," she says. "For me, what's most important is the novel. Because that's mine."

All this success for a writer who's often boxed into the dubious "women's fiction" genre. Even as her popularity boomed—and HBO's relatively dark *Lies* earned more "prestige"—her rich characterizations still didn't elevate her reputation the way they might have for a male novelist. Moriarty has issues with the "women's fiction" label—"Why are we a sub-category?" she asks—but her opinion is evolving. She wonders whether, perhaps, it's time to reclaim the term. "If there was 'men's fiction,' men wouldn't be tying themselves up in knots saying, 'Women can read my books too!'" she cracks. "We have a lot to be proud of."

LIANE'S CINEMATIC UNIVERSE

Almost all of Moriarty's books are headed to the screen—with big stars lined up



WHAT ALICE FORGOT

Jennifer Aniston is attached to the long-gestating film adaptation of Moriarty's story of a divorced woman who forgets 10 years of her life.



THE HUSBAND'S SECRET

Blake Lively will star in a movie based on Moriarty's smash best-seller about three women reeling from one man's lies.



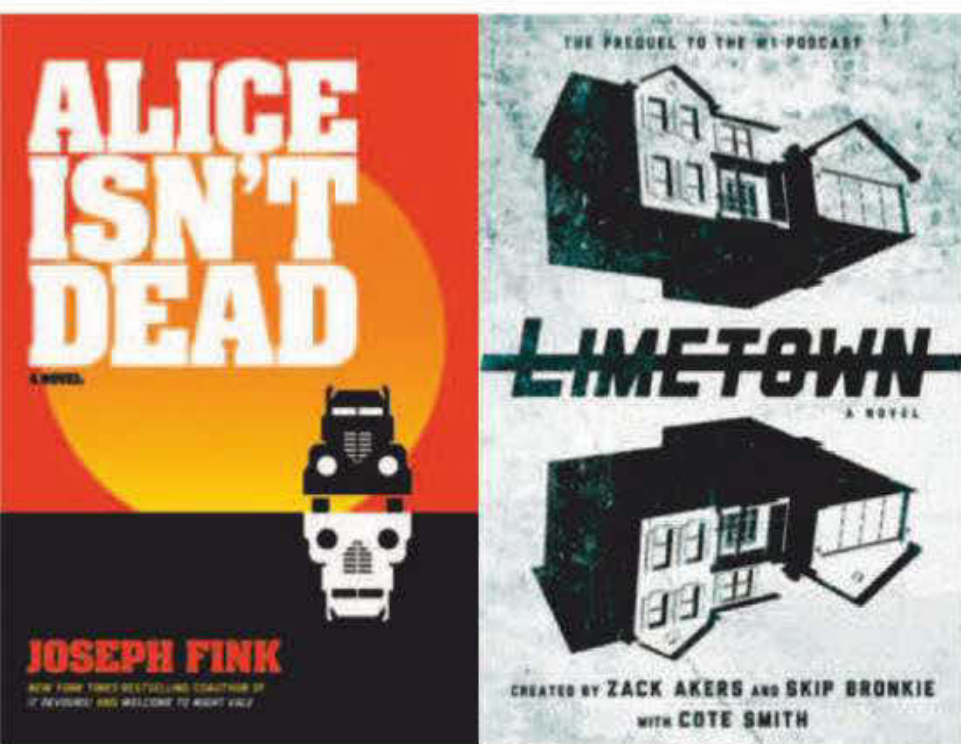
TRULY MADLY GUILTY

Reese Witherspoon and **Nicole Kidman** acquired this mystery, about a town-wide barbecue gone wrong, prior to HBO's *Big Little Lies* debut.



NINE PERFECT STRANGERS

No word on whether **Nicole Kidman** is adapting Moriarty's latest for film or TV, but she's set to star and produce under her Blossom Films banner.



CASTING A SPELL

Two hugely popular podcasts—*Alice Isn't Dead* and *Limetown*—have been adapted into twisty fiction. But do they live up to the originals? **BY DAVID CANFIELD**

GRIPPING RADIO DRAMAS OF decades past, ushered into obsolescence by the might of TV, have recently made an improbable comeback—as podcasts, boasting spiffy modern sound designs, binged during commutes and at the gym. Now a pair of the form's most popular series are going even more retro: They're becoming novels.

Joseph Fink has done this before, writing two books out of his *Welcome to Night Vale* podcast with co-creator Jeffrey Cranor. But Fink's new podcast, *Alice Isn't Dead*, is his first solo effort; the novel adaptation, his first solo book. (A TV series is also moving forward at USA Network.) *Alice* is a spooky road-trip story about a young woman named Keisha who trucks across the country to find her wife, who's presumed dead but is almost certainly not. (As to why? No spoilers.) From the first scene, she gets more than she bargained for—pursued by a ravenous serial killer, wading through zombies and conspira-

cies to find the love of her life.

Fink rather neatly compresses three podcast seasons into one book. His flashy horror stylings don't fully translate to the page—the creepy, anxious factor of his audio work is second to none—and the pacing, as Fink tries veering between new points of view, turns clunky. But this *Alice Isn't Dead* remains an intriguing complement, imbued with newfound soul—and romance. *Alice* has always known suspense, but as a novel it finds true love.

Sadly, I'm not so sure what the *Limetown* novel finds. The book, written by Cote Smith from a story conceived by podcast creators Zack Akers and Skip Bronkie, is a prequel that seeks to enhance our understanding of main character Lia Haddock, developing new puzzles for fans to solve. Unlike *Alice*'s textual companion, however, *Limetown* doesn't convince as stand-alone narrative fiction.

The *Limetown* podcast is narrated by Lia, a fictional reporter who's investigating the random

“

KEISHA FELT LOVE, RIGHT WHERE SHE HAD LEFT IT, AND KISSED ALICE SO HARD IT HURT BOTH OF THEM.”

—JOSEPH FINK, *ALICE ISN'T DEAD*

disappearance of 300 people, including her uncle, in a small Tennessee community. (Season 2 premiered in October; Facebook Watch is developing a series starring Jessica Biel.) Resembling a fictionalized *Serial*, the show is an expansive, gorgeously produced work; an entire town comes to life through Lia's research. The mysteries are engrossing, but equal to the immersive atmosphere and cast of characters *Limetown* develops.

The book mostly forgets this, following 17-year-old Lia as she discovers secrets about her uncle and family. Her connection to *Limetown*'s main story comes into view—a nice bonus for listeners, perhaps. But the family story plods, with too much focus on moving plot. There's a good book somewhere in the world of this podcast. But its creators may need to listen more closely.

***Alice Isn't Dead*: B**
***Limetown*: C+**

↓
Jessica Biel will star on a TV series adaptation of *Limetown*



JONATHAN FRANZEN VS. THE WORLD

The novelist gets cranky in the essay collection The End of the End of the Earth.

BY DANA SCHWARTZ

ON TECH

“We spend our days reading, on screens, stuff we'd never bother reading in a printed book, and bitch about how busy we are.”

ON YOUTH

“The young person who cannot or will not be alone, converse with family, go out with friends, attend a lecture, or perform a job without monitoring her smartphone is an emblem of our political economy's leechlike attachment to our very bodies.”

ON (NOT) VISITING ANTARCTICA

“Why not just wait for it to melt and cross itself off the list of travel destinations?”



← Rihanna & Co. think pink; our favorite food, fashion, and pop culture books



Beauty and the Book

The best things about coffee-table books as gifts? They're substantial, gorgeously photographed, and (unless the recipient has a teeny apartment) one-size-fits-all. Here are the best of the bunch. **BY CLARISSA CRUZ**

FASHION

Pink: The History of a Punk, Pretty, Powerful Color

Edited by Valerie Steele

A meticulous examination of the significance of pink, this book tackles everything from 18th-century Parisian style to Gwyneth Paltrow's 1999 Oscar gown to the pussy hats at the Women's March of 2017.

ALSO Trendsetters of all ages bow down to nonagenarian Iris Apfel, and it's easy to see why in **Iris Apfel: Accidental Icon**, a chic volume of vivid photographs and clever essays by Apfel herself. The minimalist (but no less fashionable) Bill Cunningham stars in **Polka Dot Parade**, a beautifully illustrated children's book by Deborah Blumenthal and Masha D'yans. And the stylishly gritty **Drop** by Byron Hawes chronicles those who line

up for hours to score coveted pieces—the queue itself becoming a de facto runway.

FOOD

Bestia: Italian Recipes Created in the Heart of L.A.

By Ori Menashe and Genevieve Gergis

Whether you like the sound of Grilled Rib-Eye With Apple Balsamic-Black Butter Sauce or are more of an Apple and Currant Crostata With Warm Crème Anglaise person, just try to look through this sumptuous book without drooling.

ALSO Yotam Ottolenghi's latest dinner-party staple, **Ottolenghi Simple**, features pared-down recipes that pack big flavors. **I Am a Filipino** by Nicole Ponseca and Miguel Trinidad, of NYC's popular Maharlika and Jeepney restaurants, is a colorful introduction

to the now-trendy food of the Philippines. In contrast, the spare yet comprehensive **Japan: The Cookbook** by Nancy Singleton Hachisu honors the cuisine's centuries-old traditions and reworks the recipes for home cooks. No meal is complete without dessert, and **All About Cake** by Christina Tosi is a riot of delicious photography and recipes both simple (Microwave Mug Cake, anyone?) and complex (Baller Birthday Sheet Cake).

POP CULTURE

It's Saturday Morning! Celebrating the Golden Era of Cartoons

By Joe Garner and Michael Ashley

Filled with archival images and never-before-told anecdotes about more than 30 cartoons—including *The Flintstones*, *Josie and the Pussycats*, and *The Smurfs*—this is a loving tribute to a pop culture moment that

doesn't exist anymore: Saturday mornings, when millions of children spent hours in thrall of the same programs, at the same time.

ALSO Julianne Moore and Tessa Thompson are among those who posed for the raw photographic stories about lost love in **The Endings** by Caitlin Cronenberg and Jessica Ennis. More phenomenal women—of the Supremes and Sleater-Kinney, as well as Beyoncé—are featured in **Women Who Rock**, edited by Evelyn McDonnell. Finally, you don't have to be a Beastie Boys fan to appreciate the **Beastie Boys Book** by members Michael Diamond and Adam Horovitz. It invigorates the music-memoir genre with insightful musings by famous fans: Amy Poehler on their music videos, André Leon Talley on their fashion, Roy Choi on Beastie-inspired recipes.





THIS WEEK'S
HITS &
MISSES

The Bullseye



Rumored titles leak for all four *Avatar* sequels: *The Way of Water*, *The Seed Bearer*, *The Tulkun Rider*, and are you even still reading this.

BY **MARC SNETIKER** @MarcSnetiker

This week's hit and miss



30th-anniversary *Die Hard* DVD cover confirms: Every film debate should be settled by cross-stitch.



Paddington director says he won't return for third film. Scorsese, seize your moment!



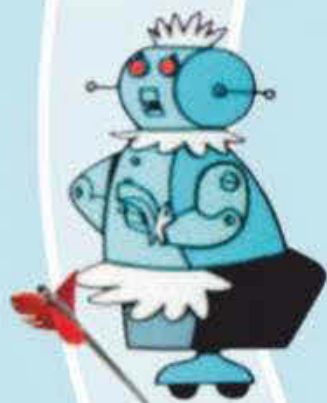
Remember when *this* was the angriest guy in the world?



Ansel Elgort plays body-sharing twins in *Jonathan*; however, your mother is still expected to leave only one voicemail asking why he looks so familiar.



The Brady Bunch kids return to their old house. THE TALENT SHOW WORKED.



Rockettes to add drones to this year's Radio City Christmas show, which is *not* the future robot employment we were promised.



Jackée Harry to play Mrs. Bennet in *Pride & Prejudice: Atlanta*—or as it obviously should have been called: *Sister, Sister, Sister, Sister, Sister, Sister*.



Time to binge season 1 of *YOU*. We know you haven't. Don't ask how.

Ridley Scott developing *Gladiator* sequel. We now go live to Emperor Commodus for reaction:



Austin Powers 4 may be on the way, and if you need a reminder of just how long it's been: They called her Beyoncé Knowles in the last one.



Sure, the cast of *Dogs* might look cute, but you have no idea how many *Beggin' Strips* were demanded in their riders.



"Not a creature was stirring" after those reviews, girl.



If *Origin* doesn't step up the PR, it may be the first time Malfoy's father won't hear about this.



We recognize only one girl in a spider's web and her name is Charlotte!!

BALDWIN: PAUL MORIGI/GETTY IMAGES FOR CANTOR FITZGERALD; DR. SEUSS: THE GRINCH: ILLUMINATION/UNIVERSAL PICTURES; YOU: A+E NETWORKS; JONATHAN: WELL GO USA; AUSTIN POWERS: IN GOLDMEMBER; ANDREW ECCLES; DOGS: NETFLIX; GLADIATOR: JAP BURENDUK/DREAMWORKS; THE GIRL IN THE SPIDER'S WEB: REINER BAJO/COLUMBIA; ORIGIN: COCO VAN OPPENS; THE NUTCRACKER AND THE FOUR REALMS: LAURIE SPARHAM/DISNEY; SISTER, SISTER, SISTER: ABC VIA GETTY IMAGES; THE JETSONS: HANNA-BARBERA PRODUCTIONS/PHOTOFEST; BRADY BUNCH CAST: MATT HARBICH/GETTY IMAGES/HGTV; PADDINGTON 2: WARNER BROS. PICTURES; AVATAR: WETA

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