

PIRACY: AN ISSUE FOR THE TIMES...



Camcorder piracy is a major threat to film distributors and exhibitors, both at home and abroad. As a result, financial expectations for films have fallen short across all media sectors, whether it be theatrical, home entertainment or international distribution. Literally hundreds of millions of dollars in revenue have been lost.

- *More and more movies are showing up on-line within days of their theatrical release. In 9 out of 10 cases, the first release is from a camcorder copy;*
- *Between May 2002 and May 2003, over 50 major movie titles were stolen by camcording prior to their release in North America;*
- *Seizures in North America have uncovered 457,000 pirated optical discs in the first nine months of 2003, compared to 137,000 in the same period in 2002; and*
- *125 major pirate camcorder labs have been investigated in North America in the first three quarters of 2003, more than twice the 62 investigations in the same period in 2002.*

What Is Being Done?

In Canada the MPTAC is working closely with the CMPDA and our American counterparts to eradicate piracy and to educate people about the gravity of the issue.

Investing In Security

The studios are spending substantial amounts of money to upgrade movie print security across the country through investments in new technology, which allow them to imbed forensic data information into the motion picture prints. This

assists investigators and law enforcement to trace piracy back to the screen from which it was recorded. They have also retained the services of security companies to conduct bag examinations and metal detector inspections at pre-theatrical screenings.

Nation-Wide Hotline

We are currently working on a nation-wide hotline to help theatre employees and movie-goers report criminal activity. There will be a Piracy Seminar and workshop at our upcoming ShowCanada convention and in the next newsletter we will give theatre managers an outline of what needs to be done if you see someone “camcording” in your auditorium.

Public Education and Training

We are encouraging consumers to be aware that camcorder copies of movies are illegally sold on-line by pirates, or in the street as DVD's and cassettes. The American distributors and theatre owners have created trailers on the dangers of piracy. “Movies, They're Worth It” trailers have been shown in thousands of theatres around the country since July 2003. For more information on what you can do in your theatre, please phone Adina Lebo at 416-969-7057.

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Executive Director's Message



Greetings!

Since this is the first newsletter of the New Year, we can take a peek at the year we've just finished. Our box office was down a little from 2002's \$963.66 million, coming in at just slightly over \$956.73 million. Last year saw a slight dip in attendance as well, given that 130.88 million

Canadians went to the movies, down slightly from the 131.29 million that went in 2002.

The top 5 films in Canada were "Lord of the Rings: Return of the King" and "Lord of the Rings: Two Towers", "Matrix Reloaded", "Pirates of the Caribbean"; and "Finding Nemo". Canadian films did well this year with Quebec films claiming 20% of Quebec's total box-office for films like "Seraphin-Une homme et son peche, La grande seduction", "Les invasions barbares", "Mambo Italiano" and "Sur le seuil".

These numbers come from the MPTAC statistics database and you too can become a subscriber. For more information, please phone the National office at (416) 969-7057.

This issue also includes an article on piracy, an issue that's fast becoming a serious threat to our industry; "what's new in Ottawa"; and of course the exhibitor relations staff from the different studios talk about their upcoming films, which will give you an idea or two for new promotional opportunities at your theatres. As always, we have updates on "what's happening around the country" with respect to the provinces and the circuits.

So enjoy reading...



OTTAWAREPORT

Mme. Chalifour-Scherrer has replaced Sheila Copps as Minister for Heritage. The new Minister comes to us from Health, Sports and Community Services. She addressed the industry in February at the CFTPA Annual Industry Convention in Ottawa.

Various government agencies in the feature film industry are currently examining their programs and preparing justifications for all existing programs, as well as working on plans for new programming initiatives. The good news for the Canadian Feature Film Fund is that Paul Martin, as Head of Finance, approved it and liked the model. Over the past year, Quebec films have taken 20% of the Quebec box office. This brings the industry goal to achieve 5% by 2006, into the realm of feasibility, as 2003 saw us clock in at 3.8%, up 1.3% from 2002.

The MPTAC has just finished renegotiating its deal with SOCAN for Tariff No. 6 which includes 2004-2008 rates, as follows:

Year	Rate Per Seat Per Annum	Minimum Fee
2004	\$ 1.11	\$111
2005	\$ 1.14	\$114
2006	\$ 1.17	\$117
2007	\$ 1.20	\$120
2008	\$ 1.23	\$123

The seating capacity of drive-ins is deemed to be three times the maximum number of automobiles that may be accommodated at any one time.

Theatres operating three days a week or less shall pay one-half the above rates.

For theatres operating less than 12 months in each year, the fee payable

shall be reduced by one-twelfth, for each full month during the year in which no operations occur.

CYAN DYE TRACK CONVERSION

The first studio release of a Cyan Dye Track print went North American wide with the release last Fall of the Woody Allen film, entitled "Anything Else". Prints were shipped to theatres throughout the continent. There were a few problems reported in some areas, but the first trial has been termed a "gigantic" success. In Canada, theatre owners apparently did not even notice the difference. We are awaiting information about the next film that will be released with the Cyan Dye Track technology.

ciné-SCOPE

Motion Picture Theatre Associations of Canada

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NEW RELEASES



JERSEY GIRL

Release: March 19

Director: KEVIN SMITH

Cast: BEN AFFLECK, LIV TYLER, GEORGE CARLIN, JASON BIGGS, JENNIFER LOPEZ

Ollie Trinke (*Ben Affleck*) is at the top of his game. A smooth, Manhattan music publicist, Ollie has just married the love of his life (*Jennifer Lopez*) and has a child on the way. It's a perfect life that is tragically upended when he suddenly finds himself a single father unqualified for his new role. Before long, Ollie's big city lifestyle clashes head-on with fatherhood. After losing his job, he's forced to move back in with his father (*George Carlin*) in the New Jersey suburb where he was raised. With the help of a beautiful young friend (*Liv Tyler*) who opens him up to love again, and the daughter (*Raquel Castro*) who gives him the courage to keep going, he begins to realize that sometimes you have to forget about what you thought you were and just accept who you are.

ELLA ENCHANTED

Release: April 9

Director: TOMMY O'HAVER

Cast: ANNE HATHAWAY, HUGH DANCY, CARY ELWES, VIVICA A. FOX, JOANNA LUMLEY, MINNIE DRIVER, ERIC IDLE

Ella (*Anne Hathaway*) lives in a fanciful and magical world where all children are given a "gift" from a Fairy Godmother at the moment of their birth. Little Ella's birthright is the gift – and curse – of obedience. As a result of this unfortunate circumstance, Ella cannot refuse any command, and is often left at the mercy of unscrupulous personalities. In a bid to regain control of her life, Ella goes on a quest to free herself from this mysterious curse. Ella must outwit a kingdom filled with ogres, giants, wicked stepsisters, talking books and evil plots. And if she's lucky, she may find love along the way. Based on Gail Carson Levine's celebrated novel.

KILL BILL VOL. 2

Release: April 16

Director: QUENTIN TARANTINO

Cast: UMA THURMAN, DAVID CARRADINE, LUCY LIU, VIVICA A. FOX, MICHAEL MADSEN, DARYL HANNAH

After dispensing with former colleagues O-Ren Ishii and Vernita Green in Kill Bill Vol. 1, the Bride (*Thurman*) resumes her quest for justice in the series' second installment, Kill Bill Vol. 2. With those two down, the Bride has two remaining foes on her "Death List" to pursue – Budd (*Michael Madsen*) and Elle Driver (*Daryl Hannah*) – before moving on to her ultimate goal ... to kill Bill (*David Carradine*).

LAWS OF ATTRACTION

Release: April 30

Director: PETER HOWITT

Cast: PIERCE BROSNAN, JULIANNE MOORE, PARKER POSEY, MICHAEL SHEEN, FRANCES FISHER, NORA DUNN

Maybe getting married first is the best way to fall in love. As divorce attorneys, Audrey and Daniel have seen love gone wrong in all its worst-case scenarios. So, how bad could their chances be? Academy Award nominee Julianne Moore and Pierce Brosnan star in *Laws of Attraction*, directed by Peter Howitt (*Sliding Doors*).

Shall We Dance

Release: July 30

Director: JOHN MADDEN

Cast: RICHARD GERE, JENNIFER LOPEZ, SUSAN SARANDON, STANLEY TUCCI

Richard Gere stars as John Clark, a man with a wonderful job, charming wife (Susan Sarandon) and loving family, who nevertheless feels that something is missing. Each evening on his commute home, John sees an entrancing young teacher, Paulina (Jennifer Lopez), staring with a lost expression through the window of a dance studio. Haunted by her gaze, John impulsively jumps off the train one night, and signs up for dance lessons, hoping to meet her. At first, it seems like a mistake. His teacher turns out to be not Paulina and John proves just as clumsy as his equally clueless classmates on the dance-floor. Even worse, when he does meet Paulina, she icily tells John she has come to the studio to seriously study dance and not to look for a date.

But, as his lessons continue, John discovers that his attraction to Paulina pales in comparison to the invigorating effects of falling in love with dancing. Now, keeping his new obsession from family and co-workers, John feverishly trains for Chicago's biggest dance competition. His friendship with Paulina blossoms; his enthusiasm rekindles her own lost passion for dance. But the more time John spends away from home, the more his wife becomes suspicious until she hires a private detective to uncover a possible affair. With his secret about to be revealed, John will have to do some fancy footwork to keep his dream going and realize for what it is he really yearns.

BLADE: TRINITY

Release: August 13

Director: DAVID GOYER

Cast: WESLEY SNIPES, KRIS KRISTOFFERSON, RYAN REYNOLDS, JESSICA BIEL, PARKER POSEY

Wesley Snipes returns as the day-walking vampire hunter in the explosive third and final film in the "Blade" franchise. When Blade is framed in a series of brutal killings, he must join forces with the Nightstalkers, a clan of human vampire hunters, to follow a trail of blood that leads directly to the notorious vampire legend, Dracula. Jessica Biel co-stars as Abigail, the daughter of Blade's mentor, Whistler (*Kris Kristofferson*), who inherits his vampire-slaying duties. The film also stars Ryan Reynolds as the Nightstalker, Hannibal King.

BUENA VISTA

Spring 2004 is filled with an exciting variety of film releases from Buena Vista Pictures Distribution Canada, Inc. From comedy to action and adventure to family fare, there is something for everyone!

HIDALGO (March 5):

When Frank T. Hopkins (*Viggo Mortensen*) is invited to race in the Ocean of Fire, a 3,000 mile survival race across the Arabian Desert, with his horse Hidalgo, it becomes not only a matter of pride, honor, and personal redemption, but a race for his very survival. © Touchstone Pictures.

THE LADYKILLERS (March 26):

Academy Award®-winner Tom Hanks teams up for the first time with Academy Award®-winning filmmakers Joel and Ethan Coen (*O' Brother, Where Art Thou?*) for this re-telling of the critically acclaimed 1955 comedy, "The Ladykillers." Hanks stars as Goldthwait Higginson Dorr III, Ph.D., a charlatan professor who's assembled a gang of experts for the heist of the century. The problem: they have seriously underestimated one little old lady. © Touchstone Pictures.

HOME ON THE RANGE (April 2):

Bust a moo on April 2 with Disney's hilarious wild and woolly new animated musical-comedy which follows the adventures of three cows, a karate-kicking stallion and a colorful corral of critters as they try to save the farm, with great new songs by



Oscar-winner Alan Menken (*Beauty and the Beast*) and lyricist Glenn Slater. © Disney Enterprises, Inc.

THE ALAMO (April 9):



The ultimate tale of courage, sacrifice, and heroism has never been brought to the screen with such emotion and dramatic fervor. From director John Lee and Oscar-winning producers Mark Johnson and Ron Howard comes "The

Alamo," a tale of a handful of ordinary men who stood up for their passion and ideals against an overwhelming force.

© Touchstone Pictures.

SACRED PLANET (April 22):

Narrated by Robert Redford, the large format film "Sacred Planet" transports moviegoers on a magical round-the-world odyssey that explores pristine places that still exist and gives new insights into the Earth's diverse landscapes, peoples and animals.

© The Sacred Planet Project Ltd.

RAISING HELEN (May 28):

In this heartwarming comedy from director Garry Marshall (*Runaway Bride*, *The Princess Diaries*), Helen Harris' (Kate Hudson) carefree lifestyle of fashion shows and Manhattan's hottest clubs comes to a screeching halt when she finds herself responsible for her sister's three children. She soon realizes the choice she has to make is between the life she's always loved and the new loves of her life. © Touchstone Pictures



AROUND THE WORLD IN 80 DAYS (June 16):

Fabulous adventures, hilarious predicaments, and exhilarating action await an all-star international cast as three unlikely heroes attempt to settle an outrageous wager in Walt Disney Pictures and Walden Media's new spectacle for the whole family, "Around the World in 80 Days." © Balloon Productions, LLC.

For more information on these releases, contact your representative at BVPD Canada or visit our movie websites at www.touchstonepictures.com or www.disney.com/disneypictures. Academy Award® The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences

COLUMBIA TRISTAR

During the past two years, Columbia Pictures has ignited the box office with back-to-back record-breaking years for the studio. In 2002-2003, we successfully launched 16 #1 films and generated nearly \$5 billion in worldwide ticket sales. We expect 2004 to continue our momentum as we release a diverse portfolio of titles featuring stars such as Will Smith, Julia Roberts, Adam Sandler, Drew Barrymore, Johnny Depp, Tobey Maguire, Tim Allen, Tommy Lee Jones, Kirstin Dunst, Julianne Moore and Jude Law, among many others.

We kick off Spring with **SECRET WINDOW**, opening on March 12th. Secret Window is about a writer (*Johnny Depp*) going through a painful divorce, who is stalked by a psychotic stranger (*John Turturro*) who claims the writer stole his story. To force the writer to make amends, the stranger will go to any lengths, including murder.



On April 2nd, from visionary writer/director Guillermo Del Toro (*Blade II*) comes **HELLBOY**, a supernatural action adventure based on Mike Mignola's popular Dark Horse Comics series of the same name. Born in the flames of hell and brought to Earth as an infant to perpetrate evil, Hellboy (*Ron Perlman*) was



rescued from sinister forces by the benevolent Dr. Broom (*John Hurt*), who raised him to be a hero. In Dr. Broom's secret Bureau of Paranormal Research and Defense, Hellboy creates an unlikely family consisting of the telepathic "Mer-Man" Abe Sapien (*Doug Jones*) and Liz Sherman (*Selma Blair*), the woman he loves who can control fire. Hidden from the very society that they protect, they stand as the key line of defense against an evil madman who seeks to reclaim Hellboy to the dark side and use his powers to destroy mankind.

Opening on April 23rd from Revolution Studios, is **13 GOING ON 30**, a delightful be-careful-what-you-wish-for romantic comedy starring Jennifer Garner and Mark Ruffalo. On the eve of her 13th birthday, all Jenna Rink wants is to be pretty and popular. After a humiliating experience with the coolest boy in school, Jenna makes a desperate wish for a new life. Miraculously, her wish comes true, but with one catch ... it's 17 years later and she's a 13-year-old trapped inside a 30-year-old's body.

On April 30th, Jamie Foxx stars in **BREAKIN' ALL THE RULES**, a film about a man who, after being unceremoniously dumped by his fiancée, pens a "how to" book on breaking up and becomes a best-selling author on the subject. Not wanting his male friends to suffer the same fate, he gives them advice on dumping their mates. What ensues is a hilarious comedy of errors. Morris Chestnut and Gabrielle Union co-star.

In the hilarious comedy **WHITE CHICKS**, which opens on June 25th, Shawn and Marlon Wayans play two ambitious but unlucky FBI agents who go deep undercover as high society debutantes, and infiltrate the sophisticated world of the Hamptons to investigate a kidnapping ring.

And finally, on July 2nd we release one of the most hotly anticipated releases of 2004. In **SPIDER-MAN® 2**, the latest installment in the blockbuster Spider-Man® series based on the classic Marvel Comics hero, Tobey Maguire returns as the mild-mannered Peter Parker, who is juggling the delicate balance of his dual life as a college student and a super-human crime fighter. The entertaining adventure escalates and Spider-Man's life becomes even more complicated when he confronts a new nemesis, the brilliant Otto Octavius, (*Alfred Molina*) who has been reincarnated as the maniacal and multi-tentacled "Doc Ock."



For all Columbia Pictures exhibitor relations requests or questions, please contact Srimati Sen at (416) 922-5740 x 257 or via email at srimati_sen@spe.sony.com.

On behalf of all of us at Columbia TriStar Films of Canada, thank you for continuing to help us light up screens all across Canada.

DREAMWORKS
SKG™

ANCHORMAN
FROM THE LEGEND OF RON BURGUNDY



Will Ferrell (*"Elf," "Old School"*) stars as Ron Burgundy, the top-rated anchorman in San Diego in the '70s. When feminism marches into the newsroom in the form of ambitious newswoman Veronica Corningstone (*Christina Applegate*) - *"View From the Top,"* TV's *"Married With Children"*, Ron is willing to play along at first—as long as Veronica stays in her place, covering cat fashion shows, cooking, and other "female" interests. But when Veronica refuses to settle for being eye candy and steps behind the news desk, it's more than a battle between two perfectly coiffed anchorpersons...it's war.

Will Ferrell co-wrote the screenplay for *"Anchorman"* with Adam McKay, a former *"Saturday Night Live"* head writer and founder of the Upright Citizen's Brigade comedy troupe. McKay is also making his directorial debut on *"Anchorman."* Judd Apatow (*"The Cable Guy,"* TV's *"Freaks and Geeks"*) is producing the film, with Shauna Robertson (*"Meet The Parents," "Elf"*), David O. Russell (*"Three Kings," "Flirting With Disaster"*) and David Householder (*"The Core"*) co-producing.

"Anchorman" also stars David Koechner (*"A Guy Thing"*), Steve Carell (*"Bruce Almighty"*) and Paul Rudd (*"The Shape of Things," "The Cider House Rules"*) as members of Ron's news team, and Fred Willard (*"American Wedding," "A Mighty Wind"*) and Chris Parnell (TV's *"Saturday Night Live"*) as news producers. Kevin Corrigan (TV's *"Grounded For Life," "Slums of Beverly Hills"*), renowned rap musician Chuck D (*of Public Enemy*), Tara Subkoff (*"The Cell," "American Pie"*) and Maya Rudolph (TV's *"Saturday Night Live"*) appear as members of the radical underground group The Alarm Clock, which becomes the big news story of the day.

DOMESTIC RELEASE: JULY 9, 2004

Credits are not final and release date is subject to change.

SHREK 2



The natural order of fairy tales is interrupted in the sequel to the Academy Award®-winning blockbuster *"Shrek."* *"Shrek 2"* sends Shrek, Donkey and Princess Fiona on a whirlwind of new adventures with more fairy-tale favorites to lampoon along the way.

After battling a fire-breathing dragon and the evil Lord Farquaad to win the hand of Princess Fiona, Shrek now faces his greatest challenge: the in-

laws. Shrek and Princess Fiona return from their honeymoon to find an invitation to visit Fiona's parents, the King and Queen of the Kingdom of Far, Far Away. With Donkey along for the

ride, the newlyweds set off. All of the citizens of Far, Far Away turn out to greet their returning Princess, and her parents happily anticipate the homecoming of their daughter and her new Prince. But no one could have prepared them for the sight of their new son-in-law, not to mention how much their little girl had...well...changed.

Little did Shrek and Fiona know that their marriage had foiled all of her father's plans for her future...and his own. Now the King must enlist the help of a powerful Fairy Godmother, the handsome Prince Charming and that famed ogre killer Puss In Boots to put right his version of "happily ever after." "Shrek 2" brings back the voices of Mike Myers as Shrek, Eddie Murphy as Donkey and Cameron Diaz as Princess Fiona. Joining the all-star voice cast are: Academy Award® winner Julie Andrews ("Mary Poppins") and Oscar® nominee John Cleese ("A Fish Called Wanda") as Fiona's royal parents, Queen Lillian and King Harold; Antonio Banderas ("Spy Kids") as Puss In Boots; Rupert Everett ("My Best Friend's Wedding") as Prince Charming; and Jennifer Saunders ("Absolutely Fabulous") as the Fairy Godmother. The computer-animated comedy is directed by Andrew Adamson, Kelly Asbury and Conrad Vernon, and produced by Aron Warner, John H. Williams and David Lipman.

DOMESTIC RELEASE: MAY 21, 2004
Credits are not final and date is subject to change.

MGM



WALKING TALL

When a former member of the U.S. Army Special Forces returns to his small hometown in rural Washington State to revive his family's lumber mill business, he discovers that much has changed, as the normally tranquil town is now besieged by drugs, outbreaks of violence and a general feeling of malaise and terror, with many pointing a finger at the influence of a crooked casino where his ex-girlfriend now works as a dancer. Seeking to wreak vengeance, with a

four-foot-long 2-by-4 in his hand, and righteousness in his heart, the highly-trained soldier, now the county's sheriff, and his deputy, realizes it's time to bust some heads with a very hard piece of wood.

SOUL PLANE

Why just fly when you can soar with soul? After a humiliating experience on an airplane, Nashawn Wade sues the airline and is awarded a huge settlement. Determined to make good with the money, Nashawn creates the full service airline of his dreams, complete with sexy stewardesses, funky music, a hot onboard dance club, and a bathroom attendant.

Departing from all-new Terminal X in Los Angeles, Soul Plane gives "fly" a whole new meaning, taking its passengers on a maiden voyage full of comedy.



AGENT CODY BANKS 2: DESTINATION LONDON



CIA agent has stolen a top secret mind-control device and Cody has to go undercover in London to get it back. Posing as a student at an elite boarding school to get close to his suspects, Cody has to keep the other kids from discovering his true identity while infiltrating covert hideouts, spying on

his sinister target - and going to class. With all-new gadgets, high-flying action, exciting chases and a wisecracking new handler, Derek (*Anthony Anderson*) Cody has to retrieve the device before the world's leaders fall under the evil control of a diabolical villain.

PARAMOUNT



Paige, a pre-med student from Wisconsin, is on the fast track to creating the life she's always wanted. Eddie, the Crown Prince of Denmark, is trying to escape a life he never chose. Now they've fallen in love and he's in line to become king. Paige has to choose between her two dreams - marrying Eddie and being a doctor.



Cast

Julia Stiles, Luke Mably, Ben Miller, James Fox and Miranda Richardson
In Theatres - April 2, 2004



STEPFORD WIVES

Based on Ira Levin's best-selling novel about an odd Connecticut community with a very big secret, this much anticipated film has a star-studded cast that includes Nicole Kidman, Matthew Broderick, Bette Midler, Christopher Walken, Jon Lovitz, Faith Hill, Roger Bart and Glenn Close. Frank Oz directs from Paul Rudnick's screenplay.

In Theatres - June 11, 2004

To find out more about our upcoming releases please go to www.paramountprogress.com.

For any exhibitor services questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me. Tanya Mason, Paramount Pictures Canadian Exhibitor Service Representative
Ph: 416-969-7142 Fx: 416-922-9931
Email address: tanya_mason@paramount.com

UNIVERSAL

DAWN OF THE DEAD – March 19, 2004

Genre: Zombie Action Thriller Cast: Sarah Polley, Ving Rhames, Jake Weber, Mekhi Phifer Directed by: Zack Snyder
Website: www.dawnofthedeadmovie.net



Sarah Polley, Ving Rhames, Jake Weber and Mekhi Phifer head an ensemble cast in a re-envisioning of George Romero's apocalyptic horror classic, "Dawn of the Dead". An unexplained plague has decimated the world's population and yet...the dead aren't dying.

CONNIE AND CARLA – April 16, 2004

Genre: Comedy Cast: Nia Vardalos, Toni Collette, Stephen Spinella, Dash Mihok and David Duchovny Directed by: Michael Lembeck
Website: www.connieandcarla.com

Nia Vardalos, Toni Collette and David Duchovny star in Spyglass Entertainment Productions's comedy "Connie and Carla". Vardalos and Collette play Connie and Carla, two struggling Chicago dinner performers who accidentally witness a mafia hit...and who subsequently hit the road, running for their lives. Assuming the killers will never look for them in a place devoid of culture, the pair head to Los Angeles, where they assume new identities and find their middling talent at song and dance perfectly suited to new careers as drag queens.



VAN HELSING – May 7, 2004

Genre: Epic Action-Adventure
Cast: Hugh Jackman, Kate Beckinsale, Richard Roxburgh, David Wenham Will Kemp, Kevin J. O'Conner Directed by: Stephen Sommers
Website: vanhelsing.net

Deep in the mountains of Carpathia lies the mysterious and mythic land of Transylvania a world where evil is ever present, where danger rises as the sun sets and where the monsters that inhabit man's deepest nightmares take form. Innovative filmmaker Stephen Sommers who so imaginatively re-envisioned Universal's classic Mummy character in the worldwide blockbusters "The Mummy" and "The Mummy Returns" now widens his cinematic scope and multiplies his creative inspiration



by breathing new life into the most time honored pantheon of classic Universal monsters and setting them as a stunning new world of fantastical reality.

WARNER BROS.

HAPPY NEW YEAR FROM ALL OF US HERE AT WARNER BROS. PICTURES!!!

WB finished up last year as one of the top grossing studios for 2003 by releasing almost 25 films and grossing more than \$1.15



billion in box office. Films like "The Matrix Reloaded", "The Matrix Revolutions", and "T3: Rise of the Machines" helped us

achieve a record-breaking year. In 2004, there are approximately 24 titles planning to be released by WB.

These exciting features include: "Starsky & Hutch" (Mar.) – an action comedy remake of the TV series starring Ben Stiller and Owen Wilson, "Scooby Doo 2: Monsters Unleashed" (Mar.) – a second installment of last year's hit family comedy, "Taking Lives" (Mar.) – a thriller starring Keifer Sutherland, Angelina Jolie, and Ethan Hawke, "The Whole Ten Yards" (Apr.) – the second installment of the 1999 comedy "The Whole Nine Yards" starring Matthew Perry and Bruce Willis, "New York Minute" (May) – a teenage comedy starring the Olsen twins, "Troy" (May) – a historical epic starring Brad Pitt, Orlando Bloom, Eric Bana, and Peter O'Toole, and "Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban" (June) – the third installment of the incredibly successful franchise. These films constitute the bulk of our releases until the end of June 2004.



Going forward in 2004, we will have promotional items available for most of our releases to support media/in-theatre promotions. We hope to continue our support towards in-theatre promotions and prizing for outstanding submissions. This year, keep your eyes out for such releases as "Catwoman", "Yu-Gi-oh", "Alexander", "Ocean's 12", "The Polar Express" and "The Aviator", to name a few.

For those of you who would like to get a hold of me, should you require any materials, info, or would like to make a promotional submission, I can be reached at 1-800-668-4961, (416) 250-8384 (ext. 378), by fax (416) 250-7403, by email brian.ware@warnerbros.com, or you can register at our Exhibitor Services website @ www.wbexhibitorlink.com for all the latest on WB materials and promotions.

Good luck on all your endeavors for 2004!!!

Best regards,

Brian Ware
Manager, Canadian Exhibitor Services
Warner Bros.

THE MARITIMES

by Dean Leland

Our Atlantic AGM was held October 23-25 at White Point Beach Resort (about 1.5 hrs. south of Halifax) and a great time was had by all! In conjunction with the AGM, Empire Theatres conducted their annual Management Seminars where all managers and head office department personnel held closed door meetings. Also attending were some Atlantic Independent exhibitors, Famous Players, representatives from Coca-Cola, and the MPTAC's very own Adina Lebo. A big thanks goes to Sharon Irwin from Universal.

QUEBEC

by Rejean Seguin

The General Assembly of the Motion Picture Theatre Association of Quebec was held in June 2003. The new formula, instituted last year, was once again successfully executed with the GM in the afternoon, followed by cocktails and a dinner which reunited all the sectors of the film industry in Quebec.

This year the "Bobine d'or" was awarded to Denis Arcand for his contribution to Quebec cinema in general and for his film work in particular. The "Coup de Coeur" went to Jean-Francois Pouliot, director of "The Grande Seduction", the box-office success of 2003.

SODEC has revamped its programs to aid exhibitors in the construction and renovation of new theatres by simplifying their application process and raising the amount of funds being allotted.

SODEC has also created a new prize, starting next year, which will go to the exhibitor who has done the most for the advancement of Quebec films. The association congratulates SODEC for a fine new initiative.

Cineplex Odeon and Galaxy Entertainment joined forces late last year to create Cineplex Galaxy Cinemas. Congratulations!

SASKATCHEWAN

by Wilf Runge

Not too much to report at this time from Saskatchewan other than bad weather causing business to drop. The association will be holding a conference call to have a director's meeting in late February to discuss ways of better communicating with the National Association. We are also looking at approaching the City of Regina with regards to the amusement tax issue with the theatres. I would also like to approach the new mayor of Saskatoon with the directors in that city to discuss our concerns over the building by-laws for construction of new theatres and the barriers in place at this time in that city.

BRITISH COLUMBIA

by Trent Sales

A belated Season's Greetings to everyone from BC! With Christmas behind us, we are now focusing on ShowCanada 2004, which will be held in beautiful Vancouver. This ShowCanada will be a little different for us as it is being taken care of by the National Association now, but we are still looking forward to being involved and showing off our fabulous city! Doug Isman is also working hard on this year's Pioneer Golf Tournament so please sign up early as it is sure to fill up!

We have been working on the idea of creating a website for our association to offer an easier flow of information to our members. We hope to make some progress on this over the next few months.

We are also exploring moving our AGM this year from Harrison Hot Springs to Kelowna. We hope this will lead to moving the AGM to different cities in the province each year as long as the costs are manageable.

That's about it from BC! See everyone in Vancouver!



by Dean Leland

Empire Theatres is pleased to announce that our new cinema complex in Bridgewater, NS is on schedule to open in late May of this year. The residents of the Bridgewater and surrounding area are very anxious to welcome Empire Studio 7 Cinemas to the area. Complete with all the state-of-the-art amenities offered by Empire Theatres with our "studio" brand, this new location includes New York Fries, PretzelMaker and TCBY, along with Taste Quest to satisfy eager movie-goers. A job fair is set for early April, where our operations team indicate a huge buzz by locals interested in getting into the wonderful world of movies!

A long-term employee (21 years to be exact) of Empire Theatres, Abbie Broaders, located in our Halifax regional office, has decided to "retire" and enjoy a more relaxing future with her husband Cliff in Dartmouth, NS. Abbie was hired by the late Alan Bell in May of 1983 and has been a loyal, energetic, kind and wonderful asset to our team at Empire ever since. We will all miss Abbie's contributions to our company and most of all her smile and energy each morning as we start our days! Relax, enjoy and keep well, Abbie. "We are very happy for you!"

Empire Theatres, a long time supporter of Kids Help Phone, once again led a team of sponsors, including Coca-Cola, to present "Hollywood: A Pre-Oscar Party" in Halifax on February 28th. This annual event (13 years now) raised close to \$35,000 this year for Kids Help Phone with over 500 people in attendance at the Casino Nova Scotia Hotel celebrating our industry's biggest night, The Oscars, with great entertainment, silent auction and the

now infamous Oscartini!

Empire Theatres is pleased to welcome new members to our senior theatre Management teams. Greg Corey takes over the helm of Empire Studio 10 in Saint John, NB and Irwin Lund assumes the lead role at Empire Studio 8 Cinemas in Charlottetown, PE. Both Greg and Irwin are wonderful additions to our team.

Best of luck and enjoy your new roles.



by Pat Marshall

Cha-cha-cha-changes – the song by David Bowie -- is the tune that most accurately reflects the last few months around here!

On November 26th, 2003 Galaxy Entertainment Inc. and Cineplex Odeon Corp. merged into one new *public* company entitled Cineplex Galaxy LP (CGLP). This makes the new company the second largest exhibitor in Canada with a total of 83 theatres and 750 screens across Canada. The new combined company offers the best of both worlds—the Galaxy brand will continue to be the market leader in mid-size markets and the Cineplex brand will continue to be featured in major urban centres. It's a terrific marriage of two great brands and everyone at CGLP is excited about the opportunities that exist for us.

One of the first projects to emerge from the new company was the renovation to our theatre in Rock Forest/Sherbrooke, Quebec. The old Cinema 9 experienced major changes with the addition of three new all-stadium auditoriums, a beautiful concession area and a brand new name – Galaxy Cinemas Sherbrooke. The official launch of the new addition occurred in mid-December, in the center of a snowstorm, but that didn't keep anyone away from the theatre to experience the premiere screenings of "The Lord of the Rings: The Return of

the King". Also on hand that night was Annie Broccoli – a Quebec-based children's star – who launched her new film to huge accolades! All in all it was a wonderful start to the new theatre and a great kick-start to the Christmas season!

Congratulations to Louise Trottier, General Manager, and her team at the new Galaxy Cinemas Sherbrooke. January 16th saw the launch of the 20th Galaxy theatre in the network with the opening of Galaxy Cinemas Guelph. The much-anticipated ten-screen theatre is the newest showcase in the Kitchener/Waterloo/Cambridge/Guelph area. The Guelph theatres features 2200+ all-stadium seats with giant screens, an expanded concession menu featuring *Outtakes*, along with *Yogen Fruz* and *New York Fries* outlets. Judging by the numbers, the community is happy we are in town and have been visiting regularly. On February 4th we held our Gala Opening party and entertained 450 guests from the Canadian film and business communities along with local Guelph business leaders. Her Worship, Mayor Kate Quarrie, from the City of Guelph, was on hand to officially open the theatre along with other CGLP executives. It was a great evening with lots of fun for all! We also want to thank Ryan Dion, General Manager, along with his team for the excellent job they did in launching the theatre. Also want to welcome Ryan to Ontario as he was with Galaxy in Sherwood Park, Alberta and has moved here to take on this important new role.

Our most recent news is the announcement of two new theatres to be built and opened later this year in Maple Ridge, British Columbia and Orillia, Ontario. The Cineplex Odeon Pitt Meadows Theatre is expected to open this Fall and will feature a ten-screen complex with 2300+ all-stadium seats. Orillia will see the arrival of a six-screen Galaxy Cinema with 1000+ seats and is also expected to open this Fall.

Last, but certainly not least, we are delighted to announce Bill Soady has joined CGLP as Executive Vice President, Film. Many of you may know Bill from his days at Universal, Tri-Star and Showscan. Welcome aboard Bill!

There are still more changes to come and other theatre projects to announce.

Stay tuned!



by Andrew Sherbin

Congratulations to all of our staff across the country for a successful 2003! Our theatres worked hard to set us up for what looks like a great 2004. Thanks to everyone for all their enthusiasm and dedication.

We are proud to have had 8 of the top 10 grossing theatres in Canada and 13 of the top 15 over the past year. As well, our circuit continued as a dominant player in the North American market, achieving 4 of the top 5, and 12 of the top 25 spots, in North America for "Lord of the Rings: Return of the King" opening day. We retained 4 of the top 5 spots for LOTR in the last 2 weeks of the year, including number one spot at the Paramount Chinook in Calgary and number two at SilverCity Riverport in Richmond.

And some of our successes come on an individual level too! Congratulations to SilverCity Tillicum and Victoria Capitol 6 GM Rob Denison for being named the Kids Help Phone, BC Region's Volunteer Of The Year. Since becoming the head of the Victoria Chapter of KHP, Rob has been key in raising over \$19,000 for the charity. Rob thanks his family, his theatre teams at SilverCity and the Cap 6, Kevin DeRijck and Murray Silk for their support in all of his incredible fund-raising initiatives.

As previously reported in the last Ciné-Scope, two licensed lobby locations opened over the holiday season at the Coliseum Calgary and Paramount Chinook. Both are doing well and are helping us pave the way for future outlets in Calgary, Edmonton and other locations across Canada. Thanks again to the staff at these two theatres for their hard work in getting these unique concession stands up and running!



Don Langkaas

Landmark continues to grow in a new and exciting way with the acquisition of Theatre Agencies, Westcoast Theatre Services and Prairie Allied Booking. These companies book approximately 90 independent theatres across Western Canada from Thunder Bay, Ontario to Kitimat, British Columbia. All personnel from these companies have chosen to remain on board and will report to Landmark's COO, Neil Campbell. We welcome Syd Sniderman, Ellen Smelter, Ouida Gerat, Marjorie Bosch and Sharon Brodeur to the Landmark Group.

Congratulations are in order to Melissa Wright, Manager of the Pen-Mar Cinema Centre, Penticton, B.C., for being named the Landmark Cinemas of Canada, 2003 Showman Of The Year. Melissa was also the recipient of this Award in 2000. The Towne Cinema Abbotsford team of Debbie Thorburn, Lindsay Thorburn and Ben Parasynchuk received an Honourable Mention for Dreamworks "Sinbad" National Managers Contest. Also, congratulations to the team of Steve McCune, Stacie Lamirande, Ashley Bachmeier and Vanessa Spindor at the Showcase 5 in Campbell River, B.C., for their honourable mention in Buena Vista's "Finding Nemo" Canadian In-Theatre Contest.

Frank Kettner, one of the founders of Landmark Cinemas and past president of the MPTAC, was presented with the Motion Picture Theatre Association of Alberta's Honouree Award last Fall at the MPTAA's AGM in Banff.

Nathan Cooney, operations supervisor, has moved from Kelowna B.C. to home office in Calgary. Richard Ward, long time industry vet in Medicine Hat, Alberta, has left the heart of southern Alberta and moved to Vancouver Island to manage the Rialto Theatre in Courtenay. Filling Richard's shoes in Medicine Hat is Lyle MacDonald who has been promoted to manager of the Towne Cinema and Monarch Theatre.

Kelly Tindal has transferred from Courtenay to the Avalon Theatre in Nanaimo, B.C. Mike Cairns, former Assistant Manager at the Globe Cinema, Calgary, has been promoted to Manager of the Jan Cinema and Lyric Theatre in Grande Prairie, Alberta, and Trevor Endo, Assistant Manager at the Uptown, Red Deer, has been promoted to Manager at the Roxy Theatre and Performing Arts Centre in Hinton, Alberta.

NEWSFLASH...

"INVASIONS" WINS AT HOME...

Quebec's Jutra Awards honour Quebec feature films and "Les invasions barbares" scored big at the Jutra's this year, taking home four trophies. "Invasions" picked up the Best Director and Best Screenplay awards, as well as Best Film and Best Actress categories. "Invasions" also won four Caesar's, the French film awards, taking home Best Film, Best Director and Best Screenplay.

But Jean-Francois Pouliot's comedy "La grande seduction" led the Quebec awards

with seven wins, including the award for Highest Box Office Gross. To-date the film has grossed over \$8 million and is still showing on Quebec screens. They also won the prize for Best Supporting Actress and Actor, Best Director of Photography, Best Art Direction, Best Editing and Best Sound.

The Best Actor award went to Serge Teriault for "Gaz Bar Blues", directed and written by Louis Belanger. The film also received Best Music For Compositions.

The top documentary award was shared by "A hauteur d'homme" and "Roger Toupin".

CANADIAN FILMS CAUGHT IN U.K. CLAMP DOWN

The crackdown on UK tax shelters has jeopardized as many as 10 Canada/U.K. co-productions as well as 40 U.K. productions. Britain's tax agency has accused finance companies, which usually use a generally accepted accounting principles formula to write-off new productions costs as tax losses, of unacceptable tax avoidance tactics and shut them down.

The MPTAC On-line...

www.mptac.ca

- for Canadian statistics
- for addresses & phone numbers of the national & provincial associations
- for corporate information

www.cinescope.ca

- for the latest newsletter in English and French
- for marketing tips, technical tips, and the latest industry info

www.showcanada.ca

- for ShowCanada convention info
- for ShowCanada Showmanship info

RELEASE SCHEDULE March to July 2004

March 5

Buena Vista Hidalgo
 Christal Twist
 Christal Ripoux 3
 Mongrel In this World
 Mongrel The Other Side of the Bed
 Odeon Films Blue Butterfly
 TVA Mauvais esprits
 TVA Le convoyeur
 Warner Starsky and Hutch

March 12

Christal Le dernier tunnel
 Equinoxe Laisse tes mains sur mes hanches
 Fox The Girl Next Door
 La fille d'à côté

Lions Gate
 MGM

The Snow Walker
 Agent Cody 2: Destination London
 L'agent Cody Banks 2:
 Destination Londres

Mongrel
 Paramount

Monsieur Ibrahim
 The Prince and Me
 Le prince et moi
 Good Bye Lenin
 Secret Window
 Spartan

Seville
 Sony
 Warner

March 19

CinémaLibre The Girl Who Married a Ghost
 Mongrel Dopamine
 Odeon Films Eternal Sunshine of
 the Spotless Mind

Seville
 Universal

La peau blanche
 Dawn of the Dead
 L'aube des morts
 Taking Lives

Warner

March 26

Alliance Jersey Girl
 Odeon Films Luck
 Buena Vista The Ladykillers
 Les tueurs de dames
 Christal Tais-toi
 Fox Never Die Alone
 Warner Scooby-Doo 2

April

Alliance Wilbert Wants to Kill Himself
 Christal Twist
 CinémaLibre Le bonheur c'est
 une chanson triste
 Odeon Films Intermission
 Odeon Films Far Side of the Moon
 TVA On the Corner

April 2

Buena Vista Home on the Range
 La ferme de la prairie

DreamWorks
 LionsGate
 Odeon Films
 Paramount

Envy
 Dogville
 Seducing Dr. Lewis
 Mean Girls
 Méchantes ados
 Hell Boy

Sony

TVA Dans une galaxie près de chez vous

Apr 7

Fox Johnson Family Vacation

Apr 9

Alliance Ella Enchanted

Alliance
 Buena Vista
 Christal
 MGM

Mongrel
 Mongrel
 Odeon Films
 Warner

April 16

Alliance
 Alliance
 Odeon Films
 Seville
 TVA
 TVA

Universal

April 23

Fox

MGM

Mongrel
 Mongrel
 Mongrel
 Paramount

Sony

Apr 30

Alliance
 Alliance
 LionsGate
 Mongrel

Sony

May
 Alliance
 Christal

Christal
 Christal
 Christal
 CinémaLibre
 TVA

May 7

Christal
 Mongrel
 Seville

TVA

TVA
 Universal
 Warner

May 14

Mongrel
 MGM
 Warner

May 21

DreamWorks
 Paramount

May 28

Buena Vista
 Christal

I am not Scared
 The Alamo
 L'espérance
 Walking Tall
 Justice sauvage
 Broken Wings
 Tibet: Cry of the Snow Lion
 Mayor of Sunset Strip
 Whole Ten Yards

Kill Bill Volume 2

Shaolin Soccer

The Punisher

Nathalie

Jeux d'enfants

Monsieur Ibrahim et

les fleurs du coran

Connie and Carla

Connie et Carla

Man on Fire

L'homme en feu

Saved !

Bon voyage

Go Further

The Cremaster Cycle

Without a Paddle

Sans avion

13 Going on 30

Monica la mitraille

Laws of Attraction

Godsend / Adam

Spring, Summer, Fall,

Winter...and Spring

Breaking All the Rules

Vanity Fair

Summer With Ghosts

L'été avec les fantômes

7 ans de mariage

Gomez & Tavares

Cette femme-là

La pension des étranges

The Rage in Placid Lake

Nos enfants chéris

Crimson Gold

Tough Luck

Les belles-soeurs

Les rivières pourpres 2

Littoral

Van Helsing

New York Minute

Young Adam

Coffee and Cigarettes

Troy

Shrek 2

Mission Impossible 3

Raising Helen

L'incomparable Mademoiselle C

Fox

The Day After Tomorrow

Le jour d'après

MGM

Soulplane

Mongrel

Touch of Pink

Summer

CinémaLibre

Delicate Art of Parking

Christal

Les égarés

Mongrel

Silent Waters

Mongrel

Since Otar Left

Mongrel

Alila

Mongrel

The Green Butchers

Mongrel

Riding Giants

June

Alliance

Hero

Christal

Rrrr...

Mongrel

My Mother Likes Women

Seville

Zatoichi

Warner

Harry Potter and the Prisoner
 of Azkaban

June 4

Mongrel

Carandiru

June 11

Universal

The Chronicles of Riddick

June 16

Buena Vista

Around the World in 80 Days

Le tour du monde en 80 jours

June 18

DreamWorks

Terminal

June 23

Christal

Elvis Gratton 3:

Le retour d'Elvis Wong

June 25

Mongrel

The Mother

Mongrel

Baadasssss!

Odeon Films

Door in the Floor

Sony

White Chicks

Universal

Riddick

July

Mongrel

Wilby Wonderful

July 2

Fox

I, Robot

Sony

Spider-Man 2

July 7

Buena Vista

King Arthur

Le roi Arthur

July 9

Alliance

Camping sauvage

DreamWorks

Anchorman

Mongrel

Facing Windows

Universal

Two Brothers

July 16

Christal

Maman Last Call

July 23

Fox

Fury Road: Mad Max 4

Sony

Cheer Up

Universal

Bourne Supremacy

July 30

Buena Vista

The village

Mongrel

Le village

Zhou Yu's Train

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