



NICOLAS CAGE'S 'SUPERMAN' HASSLE

# PREMIER

THE MOVIE MAGAZINE

10TH ANNIVERSARY YEAR

Alicia  
Silverstone

Tougher Than  
She Looks

BY DAVID HANDELMAN

'Cop Land'

Can Stallone Hold  
His Own With  
De Niro & Keitel?

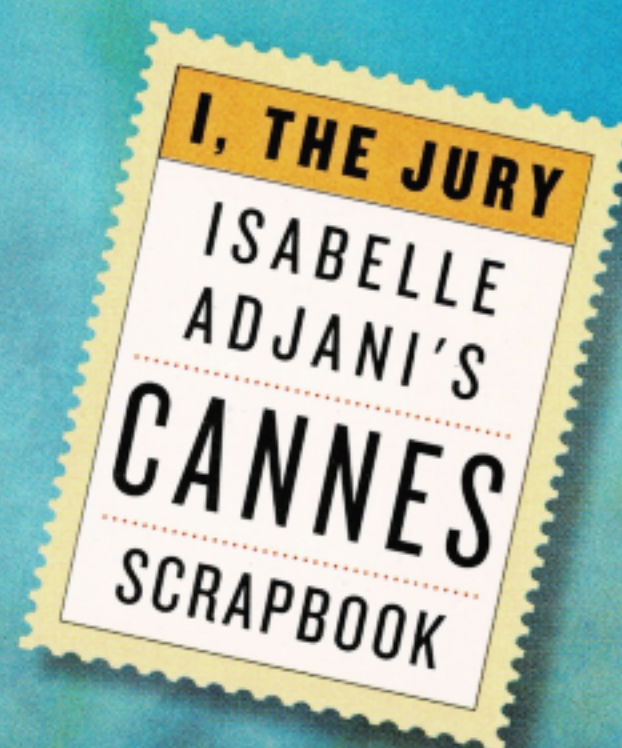
Making  
'The Godfather'

The Untold Story, 25 Years Later

BY PETER BISKIND

'Titanic' Panic!  
What's Really Going Down

The Mysterious  
Death of  
David Lynch's  
Alter Ego



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# PREMIERE

## FEATURES

### 72 Through the Looking Glass

BY DAVID HANDELMAN

She's a vegan at home who eats meat when out, a daddy's girl who's been supporting herself for years, and a hopeless romantic who doesn't have a boyfriend. Alicia Silverstone may present as many contradictions as Alanis Morissette's "Hand in My Pocket," but that hasn't distracted Hollywood's youngest actress-producer from concentrating on her latest endeavor, *Excess Baggage*. Despite rumors of pudginess and poor career control, Silverstone has managed to succeed professionally while keeping her innocence intact. "I'm twenty years old," she says. "I've done a lot of things that take focus and commitment. Nobody can say, 'She's just a flake,' right? But I think I'm entitled to be a flake for a little while."

### 80 Making Crime Pay

BY PETER BISKIND

In the wake of *The Godfather's* 25th anniversary, its creators relive the agonizing setbacks, crude pranks, and miraculous breakthroughs that helped to create one of the most pivotal movies in cinematic history. As producer Al Ruddy remembers, "Everyone who did that movie needed a winner. Brando couldn't get a job. Al [Pacino] was going nowhere. Jimmy Caan was going nowhere. No one was beating Francis [Ford Coppola]'s door down, and no one was lighting candles to get me. Everyone got together and made magic."

### 88 Myth Demeanor

PHOTOGRAPHED BY BOB FRAME

TEXT BY TRISH DEITCH ROHRER

He worked hard to sculpt his body into a prime specimen of male musculature for his title role in *George of the Jungle*, and now Brendan Fraser's proud to share the results, flexing for PREMIERE in the (scant) guises of mythic heroes.

### 92 Erased

BY MAXIMILLIAN POTTER

Jack Nance, the cult-movie icon best known for his role in David Lynch's *Eraserhead*, died in December after suffering a blow to the head. Though we may never know the exact circumstances of his death, his puzzling demise opens a window into the dark life of a deeply troubled soul.

**Madam, I'm Adam:** *George of the Jungle* hero Brendan Fraser poses while dressed as the original natural man.



# Myth Demeanor



*After stumbling in the jungle as George,  
Brendan Fraser embodies some other mythic males*

PHOTOGRAPHED BY BOB FRAME

# *Mercury Rising*

SPECIAL-DELIVERY MESSENGER



**I**N THE BACK garden of his favorite Chinese herb shop in West Hollywood, Brendan Fraser is—BOOM-boom-BOOM-BOOM-BOOM-boom-boom—doing the upright-bass version of the George of the Jungle theme, and leaning over his apricot tea to pick invisible nits off your clothing. Where a moment before he was just Brendan—sweet, soft-spoken, seemingly oblivious to his own sizable animal magnetism—now he's George, idiot monkey-boy.

He gets off his chair and starts cruising around the table in a kind of semiseated crouch—back straight, fingertips nearly touching the ground—interrupting a gardenful of ginseng junkies to make the point that he truly enjoyed playing the twisted Tarzan in Disney's live-action version of the late-'60s spoof-cartoon. Though this 28-year-old actor, in his more reflective moments, would like to be thought of as an artiste—saying, for example, that his thawed-out Neanderthal in *Encino Man* was his “homage to silent-film acting”—he's at his best when he's being playful. He pulls his T-shirt down from his shoulder and says, about one of the scars he imagined he got on George, “That's the Tookie Tookie bird right there”; and then, holding out his large, handsome hand, “The sloth bit my knuckle.”

When asked how it was to be practically naked through the whole shoot, he says, “Cold,” and laughs at his own joke so hard that he has to cover his face in embarrassment. When asked if the set was heated, he says, “Yes, but it was still cold: They had to open the doors to let the elephant in and out,” and dies laughing.

Fraser, it turns out, was happy to be almost naked for the part of George: He couldn't play the character, he says, until he had his costume—his body, that is—blown up to cartoon size, via four months of arduous weight training.

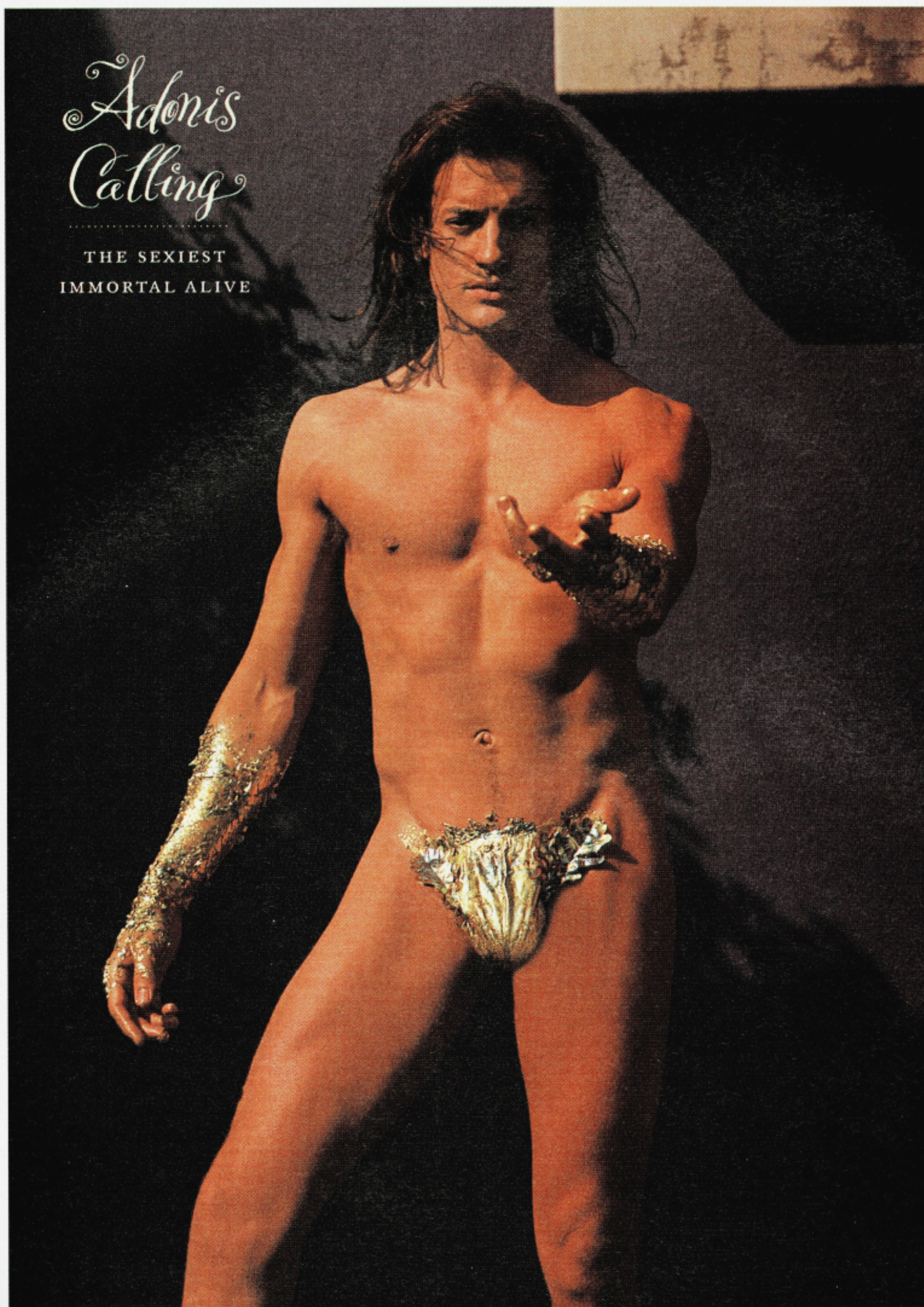
“It got to the point where I had to turn sideways to get through passages in the set,” he says. “They had to saw a hole for me to get out to the bathroom.”

Finally, he sums it up—his satisfaction with playing George. “I am,” he says, “comfortable in my own skin.” **TRISH DEITCH ROHRER**



*Poseidon  
Adventure*

HE MAKES WAVES.



*"Some actors say, 'I'm not the character until I have the right shoes.' I needed to feel like I had George's body. It's just wardrobe, but it gave me a real weightiness."*