



**E**llen Page is fast becoming the best young actress you've probably never heard of. But that should change over the coming months as the Halifax native appears in four films, including a pair of high-profile Canadian movies gracing this year's Toronto International Film Festival (TIFF). Buzz around the 20-year-old actress started after she played a scalpel-wielding teen vigilante in 2005's cult classic *Hard Candy*. (Director Brett Ratner was so impressed that he cast her as Kitty Pryde in *X-Men: The Last Stand*.) In her TIFF-featured films, Page delivers two diverse performances: as Arlene in *The Stone Angel*, she plays a '60s-era prairie rebel who's wrapped up in a forbidden romance with fellow Canuck Kevin Zegers; as Tracey in *The Tracey Fragments*, she stumbles through a dangerous urban landscape in search of her brother. "*Fragments* was filmed in 20 days," explains Page. "You don't have time to get intellectual or go inside your head—you just do it." Not wanting to get typecast as "that edgy girl who only reads Rimbaud," Page has a few lighthearted flicks in the can too, including the Dennis Quaid/Sarah Jessica Parker dramedy *Smart People* and the title role in Jason Reitman's highly anticipated *Juno*. It might be a daunting pace, but Page isn't complaining. "I think 'How lucky am I, to know exactly what I want to do with my life?'" □

## RISING STAR

From cult classics to big-screen turns, Ellen Page's career is on fire! TEXT: BRIONY SMITH