



WILLPOWER!

With his career in overdrive, Will Arnett's future is anything but arrested.

When the critically acclaimed TV series *Arrested Development* was cancelled in 2006, Will Arnett's character, halfwit magician George Oscar Bluth II, was one of the most-mourned casualties. But Arnett fans can take heart: The Toronto native has three movies hitting theatres this year, including March's *Monsters vs. Aliens*. In this one, Arnett lends his trademark rasp to The Missing Link, an out-of-shape Ice Age ape-fish hybrid. He's one of a group of lovable monster misfits (voiced by Reese Witherspoon, Hugh Laurie and Seth Rogen) who are battling an evil alien bent on world domination. "For a guy who can play super-dumb, for once I'm not the dumbest character," says Arnett, laughing. Next up is *G-Force*, a comedy adventure about a government-trained squad of guinea pigs who are dispatched to stop a diabolical billionaire from taking over the world. Leaving animals behind, Arnett plays one of Kristen Bell's suitors in the romcom *When in Rome*. Life hasn't always been so sweet for the 38-year-old actor. After moving to New York in the early '90s, he endured the frustrating audition circuit for more than a decade. He had reached a point where he swore off pilots when he grudgingly agreed to audition for *Arrested Development*. "I only read the script on the subway to the audition!" he says. In addition to roles in the 2008 films *Horton Hears a Who*, *The Rocker* and *Semi-Pro*, Arnett continues to make a splash on the small screen. He guest-starred on Tina Fey's *30 Rock*, snagging another Emmy nomination as Alec Baldwin's cutthroat rival Devon Banks. (He's married to Fey's pal Amy Poehler of *Saturday Night Live*.) And Arnett recently won the TV jackpot: a seven-figure development deal with Fox for creative control over his own show. His new-found clout, however, won't keep Arnett from taking comedic risks, à la his racy turn as himself last spring on the MTV sketch series *Human Giant*. "I don't want to rule out any genre in comedy," says Arnett. "Even if I might not want my parents to see it!" **BRIONY SMITH**



TOP 3 MOVIES

- *State of Play*, which is based on the acclaimed BBC miniseries, is a conspiracy thriller about a team of reporters tracking a murder linked to an important politician. **Helen Mirren** plays a seasoned newspaper editor, and **Russell Crowe** and **Rachel McAdams** play her dogged reporters. **Ben Affleck** is the congressman under siege.
- It's both a prequel and a sequel. You practically need a spreadsheet to keep track of where *Fast & Furious*—the fourth instalment—fits into the street-racing series, especially since all the titles are virtually interchangeable. What doesn't change, though, is the mega-adrenalin of watching **Vin Diesel**, **Paul Walker**, **Michelle Rodriguez** and **Jordana Brewster** hurtle astride convoys at 200 clicks an hour to outwit nefarious drug traffickers. Give a medal to the pedal! ● In *The Ugly Truth*, **Katherine Heigl** plays a Type A television producer who is saddled with a chauvinistic "relationship expert" (**Gerard Butler**) who has been assigned to her show. They stop bickering long enough to strike a bargain that if he can't help her win the man of her dreams, he'll quit. But, this being Romcom 101, the pheromones start firing in all the wrong directions. **EGLE PROCUTA**

SM: LIRIANKO/ENTERTAINMENT PICTURES; ARRESTED DEVELOPMENT: TONY BARONSON/REIMAGE.COM; IW: ARNETT: GLEN WILSON/2008 UNIVERSAL STUDIOS; STATE OF PLAY: JAMIE TRIEBLO/2008 UNIVERSAL STUDIOS; FAST & FURIOUS: SAEED ADANI/SONY PICTURES; THE UGLY TRUTH: (L) TRUTH

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