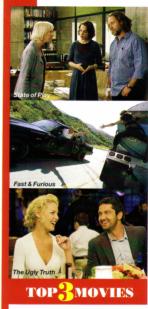


VVILLPOVVER!'

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

hen 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 sevenfigure 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



• 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 seguel. 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 Ualy 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

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