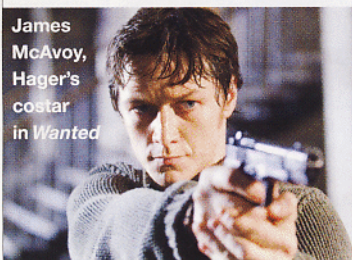




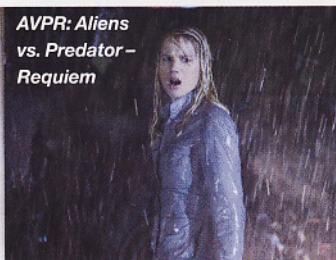
MOST WANTED!

Kristen Hager's "otherworldly" adventures in movieland.

Years before Kristen Hager landed a role in the TV miniseries *Beach Girls*, she was honing her acting skills in the privacy of her parents' basement in Red Lake, Ont. For inspiration, she would rummage through the costumes her mother—a high-school drama teacher—had collected. "All I did was play dress-up," says the 24-year-old actress, laughing. "I lived in other worlds. And now I get paid to do it!" Her first major film role was last year's Bob Dylan biopic, *I'm Not There*, in which she played a Marianne Faithfull-inspired character. Hager threw herself into her next role—literally. Her part in *AVPR: Aliens vs. Predator—Requiem* included a spectacular death scene where a Predator's ninja star pinioned her to the wall. "I was like a rag doll in a harness!" she says, laughing. "They smashed me



James McAvoy, Hager's costar in *Wanted*



AVPR: Aliens vs. Predator—Requiem

against the wall, and then I had to chew on a blood capsule." Her part in this month's *Wanted* is just as high-octane. The film is based on a comic-book series about a young man (James McAvoy) who is recruited into an elite assassin organization to avenge his father's death. His mentor in the art of killing is played by Angelina Jolie. Hager, who plays McAvoy's unfaithful girlfriend, says that her favourite scene is the one where she goes ballistic on Jolie. "I was nervous, but she was kind and such a good sport about it," recalls Hager. "She's so beautiful and so famous, but she just introduced herself with 'Hi, I'm Angie.' She's like a doll compared to the larger-than-life idea you have of her." **BRIONY SMITH**



Mamma Mia!



Hancock



The Dark Knight

TOP 3 MOVIES

● After **Meryl Streep** landed the role of the mom in *Mamma Mia!*—the Broadway-inspired musical that uses ABBA songs to tell the story of an 18-year-old looking for her dad among her mother's past suitors—some critics suggested that she was too old for it. But from the first glimpse of Streep's girlish glow and the first sound of her sweet singing voice, you'll be putting your money money money on Meryl, saying gimme gimme gimme more! ● **Will Smith** may have had few missteps in his music and film career, but the same can't be said for the title character in *Hancock*. Smith plays a down-on-his-luck superhero who wreaks havoc whenever he tries to spring to the rescue of innocent people (and animals). So he turns to a trendy solution: an image makeover. But trouble lurks between Hancock and the wife (**Charlize Theron**) of his PR consultant (**Jason Bateman**). ● *The Dark Knight* may feature **Christian Bale** in his second turn as the DC Comics legend Batman, but everyone's attention is on **Heath Ledger**. The 28-year-old heartthrob, whose death earlier this year left fans reeling, bites into the role of the villainous Joker with the same gusto with which he lived his too-short life. **EGLE PROCUTA**

movies