

HYPE

FLARE WAS THERE SPECIAL

## brilliantly binoche

Paris's most beloved actress takes over Hollywood

a world of conflict.

"I watched a lot of documentaries and I met with women who went through the Sarajevo siege. Most of the men went to war and were killed, so those surviving were mainly mothers and children. It was just overwhelming to see how far the mothers would go to save their own." The experience was significant for Binoche. "During that time, I also started to paint a lot of children and women between sky and earth."

Suffice it to say, Binoche's time-consuming process for prepping for the film more than paid off. In *Breaking*, she convincingly portrays a mother who has escaped to London from

Sarajevo to create a new life with her teenage son, Miro. Miro's criminal uncle gets the boy involved in a slew of break-ins, which eventually has Amira crossing paths with a man named Will Francis (Jude Law). Consuming every scene she's in throughout the film (including a few bedroom moments with a rather stripped and ripped Law), Binoche has

critics piping over her screen time as *the* must-see performance of the film year.

But what else can we expect from a woman who won an Academy Award in 1996 (Actress in a Supporting Role) for her poignant performance in *The English Patient*? Beating out both Lauren Bacall and Barbara Hershey for the Oscar, Binoche surprised the academy with her win for her portrayal of a Canadian nurse who rediscovers love—but it didn't shock director Anthony Minghella in the least. In fact, when it came to casting for *Breaking and Entering*, he thought of her first—which pleased Binoche immensely.

"I told Anthony that every scene he takes out of *Breaking and Entering* is a piece of my soul," she says half-jokingly during a break at the Toronto International Film Festival. "So, that way, he feels very guilty. It's important to be intense in your work. That way, it shines." Binoche is set to shine in two other upcoming movies—a film on 9/11 called *A Few Days in September* and a romance titled *Paris Je T'aime*—and she is currently filming a comedy with Steve Carell titled *Dan in Real Life*. *Vive la Binoche!* —Elio Iannacci



Most seasoned actors are content to prepare for a role with the memorization of a script and a few long conversations with their director. Not Juliette Binoche. While filming her latest picture, *Breaking and Entering* (in theatres next month), the Paris-born beauty created the role of a Bosnian war refugee named Amira by wrapping herself in

## ACTION JACKSON Canadian actor Joshua Jackson is a man on the move

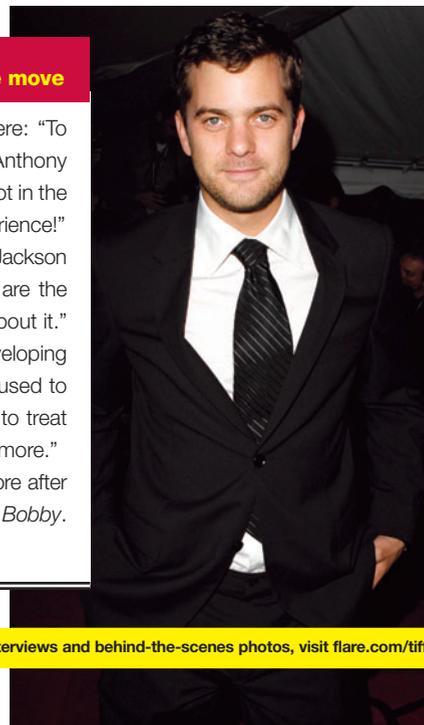
At the age of 28, Vancouver's own Joshua Jackson has been able to smoothly make the leap from teen heartthrob (at 18, he landed a role on *Dawson's Creek*) to in-demand leading man with his latest flick, *Bobby*. Directed by Emilio Estevez (whom Jackson worked with on the *Mighty Ducks* franchise) and set in L.A.'s Ambassador Hotel, the film follows the lives of more than a dozen characters caught in the crossfire of Robert F. Kennedy's assassination.

Playing an overzealous political staffer for RFK, Jackson was so ecstatic to have made the film's cut that the idea of competing for screen time with the Hollywood heavyweights in the film (from Demi Moore to Lindsay Lohan) never crossed his mind.

Jackson says he was just happy to be there: "To be on set and have Harry Belafonte and Anthony Hopkins acting together—even though I'm not in the scene—is amazing. You can't buy that experience!"

With the constellation of stars around him, Jackson has learned a few things. "The best actors are the most gracious," he says. "There is no ego about it." And, thanks to his mother, he won't be developing an oversized one any time soon. "My mom used to be a casting agent and she always told me to treat every job like it's my last so I'd appreciate it more."

He'll have a chance to appreciate even more after the public takes note of his performance in *Bobby*. We'll be watching. —Alexandra Breen



PHOTOGRAPHY: GEORGE PIMENTEL (JULIETTE BINOCHÉ); JEFF VESPA/WIREIMAGE.COM (JOSHUA JACKSON)