!confidential

Moving up

Toronto's **Gregory Smith**, star of the hit TV show *Everwood* will be appearing on a larger screen next year with his film *Closing the Ring*. Smith will act alongside Hollywood heavyweights **Shirley MacLaine**, **Christopher Plummer**, **Mischa Barton** and **Neve Campbell**.

Shania loves dogs

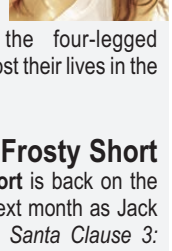
Canada's country kitten, **Shania Twain**, recently paid her respect for the heroic work of police dogs. Literally. The big-hearted, brown-eyed beauty from Timmins, Ont., donated $5,000 to The Canadian Police Service Dog National Monument Society. The organization is erecting a bronze monumentin Innisfail, Alta., to honour the four-legged heroes that lost their lives in the line of duty.

Frosty Short

Martin Short is back on the big screen next month as Jack Frost in *The Santa Clause 3: The Escape Clause*, the third installment in **Tim Allen**'s Christmas blockbuster series. Short stars with Allen, **Elizabeth Mitchell** and **Alan Arkin** in the holiday-themed film that brings to life elves, toys and even the Easter Bunny. Pull up a theatre seat to watch Allen's Santa Clause battle it out with Short's Frost for control over the North Pole.

My big fat ruins

Actress **Nia Vardalos**, best known for her hit film *My Big Fat Greek Wedding*, is exploring her roots for the big screen again. Vardalos won over Greek officials who recently gave the go-ahead for filming the **Tom Hanks**-produced, *My Life in Ruins*, inside the Acropolis in Greece. According to Britain's *Guardian* newspaper, Vardalos said filming there would increase tourism and she would ensure the ancient monument would be treated with respect.



Trailer Park movie

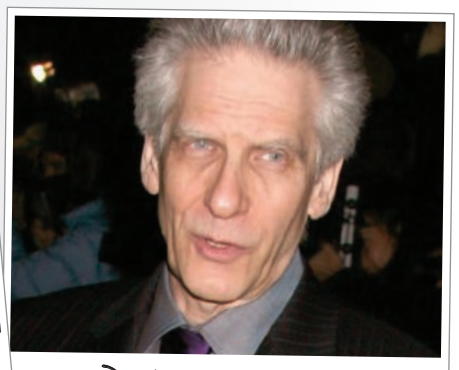
Ready or not, you can catch Julian, Bubbles and Ricky at your local cinema in their movie screen debut, *Trailer Park Boys: The Movie*. If a weekly 30-minute dose of the boys on Showcase isn't enough for you, you can catch them up to their usual tricks in the film. You wouldn't be a true *Trailer Park* fan if it surprises you that part of the film's plot shows the boys' brilliant decision to steal all the change they can, simply because it's untraceable.

– Compiled by Laura Waterhouse

Neve Campbell

Stewart Stone

Kevin Zegers



David Croneberg

Katherine Isabelle

Kathleen Robertson

Natasha Henstridge

Megan Follows

Canadians in ... Horror films

Indulge in screaming Canucks this Halloween

–**Toronto director David Cronenberg's** name is synonymous with scary movies. Responsible for *Videodrome* (1983), *The Brood* (1979), *Rabid* (1977), *Shivers* (1975) and Oscar-wining *The Fly* (1986), he also directed *A History of Violence* (2005), which filmed in Toronto and surrounding areas.

Filming locations in the Toronto area for the sci-fi wonder *The Fly* included John Anderson Charcoal Broiled Hamburgers on Yonge Street. The film took home the Oscar for Best Makeup in 1987.

Fun fact: Director David Cronenberg was born in Toronto and studied literature at the University of Toronto.

–**Ottawa Valley-native Sonja Smits** plays Bianca O'Blivion in *Videodrome* (1983), a groundbreaking film about life and the future of media spinning out of control.

–**Stuart Stone from Thornhill** plays Danny, Lewis's roommate in *Joy Ride* (2001), a film about three young people on a road trip from Colorado to New Jersey forced to escape from a psychotic truck-driving killer.

–**Guelph's Neve Campbell** gets a good startle or two in *Scream 1,2* and *3* (1996, 1997 and 2000). A psychopathic serial killer stalks a group of teens. Don't answer the phone. Don't open the door. Don't try to escape. Campbell was also in the 1996 teen-witch flick *The Craft*.

–**B.C.'s Katherine Isabelle** plays Ginger Fitzgerald in *Gingersnaps 1, 2* and *3* (2000 and 2004). Think: werewolves, suburban goth girl outcasts, a 19th-century traders' fort. Your usual stuff.

–**Kathleen Robertson from Hamilton** plays Theo in *Scary Movie 2* (2001). Four teens are tricked by their professor into visiting a haunted house for a school project.

–**Kevin Ziegers, from St. Mary's, Ont.**, was in *Wrong Turn* (2003) as Evan. Six people find themselves trapped in the woods of West Virginia, hunted down by cannibalistic mountain men grossly disfigured through generations of inbreeding.

–**Shawn Roberts from Stratford** plays Mike in George A. Romero's *Land of the Dead*, filmed in Toronto last year. He also has a part in the upcoming *Stir of Echoes: The Dead Speak*, starring Rob Lowe.

–**Newfoundland's Natasha Henstridge** is the hot alien in *Species* (1995) in which a message from outer space contains instructions on how to modify human DNA.

–**Toronto's own Anne of Green Gables, Megan Follows**, plays Corey Haim's sister in Stephen King's *Silver Bullet* (1985). Their family's home comes under attack from a priest-turned-werewolf.

– Jenny Yuen

– NBC

From kid brother to leading man

Paulo Costanzo, of *Roadtrip* and *Joey*, talks to ICON about his newest lead role

Nina**Dragicevic**
nina@icononline.ca

Paulo Costanzo, the blue-eyed, baby-faced actor from Brampton, Ont., looks much younger than his age.

At 27, his screen credits include a slew of youth-oriented, gag-filled flicks – *Road Trip*, *Josie And The Pussycats* and *40 Days and 40 Nights*. Costanzo chased that with a regular gig on TV's *Joey*, the *Friends* spin-off with star Matt Leblanc, in which Costanzo played the genius nephew to the dim-witted leading character.

Now, Costanzo wears the leading man shoes and carries a Douglas Coupland script on his shoulders in this year's *Everything's Gone Green*. The low-budget Canadian movie didn't pay him much – unless you count personal satisfaction.

"I had, by far, the best experience of my life as far as my career goes," he tells ICON. "I've never been as 100 per cent fully invested and so behind a project. I'm happy doing press for it because I don't have to bullshit at all."

Sporting some masculine facial scruff, Costanzo plays Ryan, a young man whose life crumbles around him when his girlfriend kicks him out and he loses his job. It's a Coupland classic – a young man cast adrift, seeking identity and an elusive niche in an unfriendly world.

The existential themes of *Everything's Gone Green* parallel Costanzo's career at the moment. *Joey* has just been cancelled and the up-and-comer has been cut loose. Costanzo's experience in *Everything's Gone Green*, however, gave him a taste of a meatier role in a movie "that actually has something to say."

> **"I've never been as 100 per cent fully invested ... I'm happy."**
> –Paulo Costanzo

"It's put me in an interesting position," he says. "Doing this movie, I've enjoyed it so much that I realized that this kind of movie is what I'd really like to do. With comedic elements but…more complexity. So choosing my next project has been difficult because I want to do something I enjoy as much as Everything's Gone Green."

Costanzo needn't worry – sparkling reviews say he's carried the weightier role with wit and grace. Some even suggest Costanzo makes up for the film's occasional flaws.

Perhaps *Joey*'s cancellation isn't the end of something good, but the beginning of something better.

Park it here

Want proof Megan Park is the next up-and-coming Canadian actress?

She recently wrapped up filming Charlie Bartlett, starring Robert Downey Jr. The story follows a rich kid who becomes the self-appointed psychiatrist to the student body of his new high school.

As her career is elevating, Parks is more wary of tabloids.

Says Park, "I don't ever want to be the girl that's on the cover of US Weekly, because that gets old really fast."

– Jenny Yuen

FULL STORY: icononline.ca

– Photo courtesy Megan Park