



Viola Davis and Maggie Gyllenhaal

## WON'T BACK DOWN

SEPT 28

**STARRING** Maggie Gyllenhaal, Viola Davis, Holly Hunter  
**DIRECTED BY** Daniel Barnz  
**RATED** PG

➔ **WHILE IT PROFESSES** to be “inspired by actual events,” *Won't Back Down*—the tale of two women (Maggie Gyllenhaal and Viola Davis) who try to take over a broken inner-city school—is based more on the general state of public education than on any specific occurrences. Still, that doesn't mean the fiction didn't hew close to reality. “There were certain things in the script that we had just invented, and a few months later I'd read a headline about a school somewhere where the exact same thing happened,” says director and co-writer Daniel Barnz, the son of two educators and an active protester during his youth in the 1980s. “I'm a sucker for David-and-Goliath stories.” Gyllenhaal was lured not only by the subject matter but by the role: a troubled single mom who's not the usual movie heroine. “When I see people doing things that are heroic or self-sacrificing, I think, ‘Well, that's just something in their DNA,’” says Gyllenhaal. “My character is just as much a mess as we all are, and she's still able to do something really extraordinary.” —KEITH STASKIEWICZ

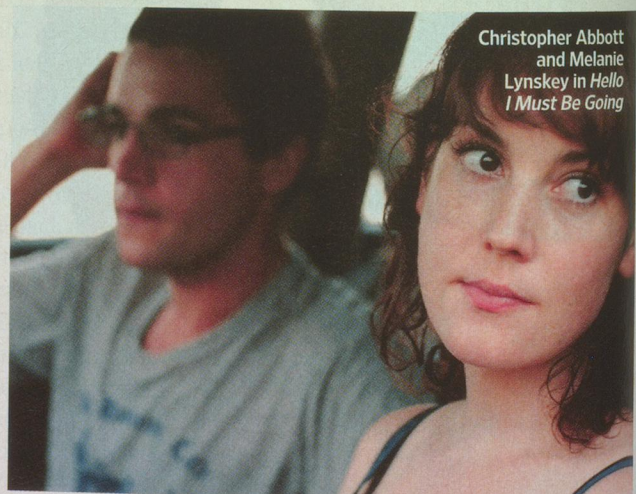


Karl Urban in *Dredd 3D*

## DREDD 3D

**STARRING** Karl Urban, Olivia Thirlby, Lena Headey  
**DIRECTED BY** Pete Travis  
**RATED** R

Karl Urban was working at a pizza parlor in his hometown of Wellington, New Zealand, when he first read the comic-book adventures of merciless future cop Judge Dredd. “I was about 16,” recalls the rebooted *Star Trek*'s “Bones” McCoy. “Most teenagers rebel against authority, but I gravitated towards this ultra-brutal representative of the law.” More than two decades on, Urban found himself in South Africa portraying the lawman in a movie he hopes will go one better than 1995's Sly Stallone-starring *Judge Dredd* and spawn a sequel. “I'd love to make more,” says Urban. Well, it beats slinging pizza dough. —CLARK COLLIS **SEPT 21**



Christopher Abbott and Melanie Lynskey in *Hello I Must Be Going*

## HELLO I MUST BE GOING

**STARRING** Melanie Lynskey, Christopher Abbott, Blythe Danner  
**DIRECTED BY** Todd Louiso  
**RATED** R

Sundance crowds were abuzz over New Zealand actress Melanie Lynskey's turn as Amy, a depressed 35-year-old divorcee forced to move back in with her parents (Blythe Danner and John Rubinstein). Amy doesn't expect to fall in love again, but she's taken by surprise by a 19-year-old actor (*Girls*' Christopher Abbott). Lynskey and Abbott have some steamy love scenes—but their chemistry wasn't exactly instant. “We had a very practical conversation after the first time we kissed,” says Lynskey. “We were like robots.” At least it was great practice for the awkward sex scenes in *Girls*. —GRADY SMITH **SEPT 7**



Joaquin Phoenix and Philip Seymour Hoffman

SEPT 14

## THE MASTER

**STARRING** Joaquin Phoenix, Philip Seymour Hoffman, Amy Adams  
**DIRECTED BY** Paul Thomas Anderson  
**RATED** R



OSCAR BUZZ

**PHILIP SEYMOUR HOFFMAN** would like to set one thing straight about *The Master*, Paul Thomas Anderson's much-speculated-upon follow-up to his 2007 drama, *There Will Be Blood*. “It's not the L. Ron Hubbard story,” he says. Hoffman plays Lancaster Dodd, the charismatic leader of a 1950s spiritual movement that seems to have similarities to Scientology, the Hollywood-friendly belief system that Hubbard founded in 1952 (see sidebar). “[Scientology] was one of the bigger movements at the time, but there were a lot of movements at that time,” says Hoffman. “There's nothing about how I'm behaving or talking that echoes [Hubbard].”

Sellar, who declined to comment on reports that Anderson screened the film for his *Magnolia* star—and noted Scientologist—Tom Cruise. In fact, the movie's central figure isn't Dodd at all but a damaged alcoholic named Freddie Quell (Joaquin Phoenix), who feels adrift in the years since fighting in WWII. “[Anderson] is interested in how veterans came back from World War II,” says Sellar. “They were these lost souls who were uncertain about their future.” Eventually Quell is taken under the wing of Dodd and his wife (Amy Adams). “Joaquin's character is like a beaten dog,” says Hoffman, who adored working with the famously intense Phoenix in his first big-screen appearance since 2010's faux documentary *I'm Still Here*. “No matter where he goes, [Quell] gets into severe trouble. And somehow I'm able to deal with him.” Spoken like a true leader. —ROB BRUNNER

I thought of a lot of other bigger-than-life personalities, charismatic people like Orson Welles.” And what of the “Scientology movie” rumors that have long swirled around the project? “People are going to have to draw their own conclusions to that aspect of the movie,” says producer JoAnne

## THE MASTER & SCIENTOLOGY

Philip Seymour Hoffman says Paul Thomas Anderson's movie is “not the L. Ron Hubbard story.” But it seems to have some striking similarities to Scientology.

**THE MASTER** Mostly set in 1950. **SCIENTOLOGY** Founder L. Ron Hubbard published *Dianetics* in 1950.

**THE MASTER** In the trailer, Lancaster Dodd (Philip Seymour Hoffman) describes himself as “a writer, a doctor, a nuclear physicist, a theoretical philosopher.” **SCIENTOLOGY** Hubbard was a prolific writer who in college took one of the first classes in nuclear physics.

**THE MASTER** At one point in the trailer, Dodd says, “You are an everlasting spirit.” **SCIENTOLOGY** Everlasting spirits called “Thetans” are a core part of the movement's belief system.

**THE MASTER** In a teaser, a voice-over asks a series of questions such as “Do you [get] muscle spasms for no reason?” **SCIENTOLOGY** The group relies heavily on a personality test that includes questions such as “Do you get occasional twitches of your muscles, when there is no logical reason for it?”