

PEOPLE OF THE YEAR

OUR ANNUAL COUNTDOWN OF THE MOST FAMOUS—AND INFAMOUS—ROCKLAND RESIDENTS.

BY AUDREY GREEN AND TED HESSON ILLUSTRATIONS BY JOHANNA GOODMAN

Ahhh, quiet, secluded Rockland. Far from big-city scandals and celebrity... or so you thought. The truth is, Rocklanders meet with success—and folly—as often as city slickers. Just take a look at this year's headlines. Eventually, for better or worse, our friends and neighbors—Oscar winners, artists, even Joe Six-pack—get their 15 minutes. So here, we honor 20 lime-light-bathed residents who caught our attention most often this year, and we're willing to bet, yours, too.

20



AIDAN QUINN

When Sneden's Landing resident Aidan Quinn stopped at the Esplanade in Palisades this January, locals packed in to hear about the highs and lows of Quinn's acting career, including his best-known roles in *Desperately Seeking Susan* and *Benny & Joon* (no stats on how many Rocklanders went just to gaze into his dreamy blue eyes). He spoke about his early role in the groundbreaking TV-movie *An*

Early Frost, about a lawyer with AIDS. "People would come up to me and say, 'Thank you for doing that,'" he said. The actor might have more to chat about soon: He currently has two dramas and a romantic comedy in production or post-production.

2007 RANKING None (fresh meat!)

2009 OUTLOOK Quinn gets into a fling with his newly single, former costar Madonna.

LORRAINE BRACCO

18 After an Oscar-nominated role as a mobster's wife in *GoodFellas*, and a nine-year run as a mobster's shrink in TV's *The Sopranos*, we thought Lorraine Bracco had eluded gangster drama typecasting in '08. But, despite the fluffy nature of NBC's *Lipstick Jungle*, recurring guest Bracco is still—as Tony Soprano might say—"a tough-talking broad." She terrified us as Janice Lasher, a ball-busting publisher who made Wendy—Brooke Shields—cry. The *Blue Lagoon* star didn't stand a chance.

2007 RANKING 13

2009 OUTLOOK Over four years, the asking price on Bracco's Sneden's Landing estate has dropped nearly \$2 million. Will she bully a buyer into releasing her from Rockland?

ADAM FALCON

19 This Spring Valley singer, songwriter, and strummer has lent chords to some of the biggest names in the biz—Eric Clapton, Roberta Flack, and the Bee Gees. But his forays into singing backup are over. Falcon won numerous awards in '08 for the lilting single "October Sky." This April, he'll release a funkier record, *Bohemian 959*, produced by Trevor Gale (Vanessa Williams, Whitney Houston) and featuring Grammy Award-winner Donnie Scantz (Usher, Chris Brown, Ludacris).

2007 RANKING None (fresh meat!)

2009 OUTLOOK Is that platinum glimmering in the distance?



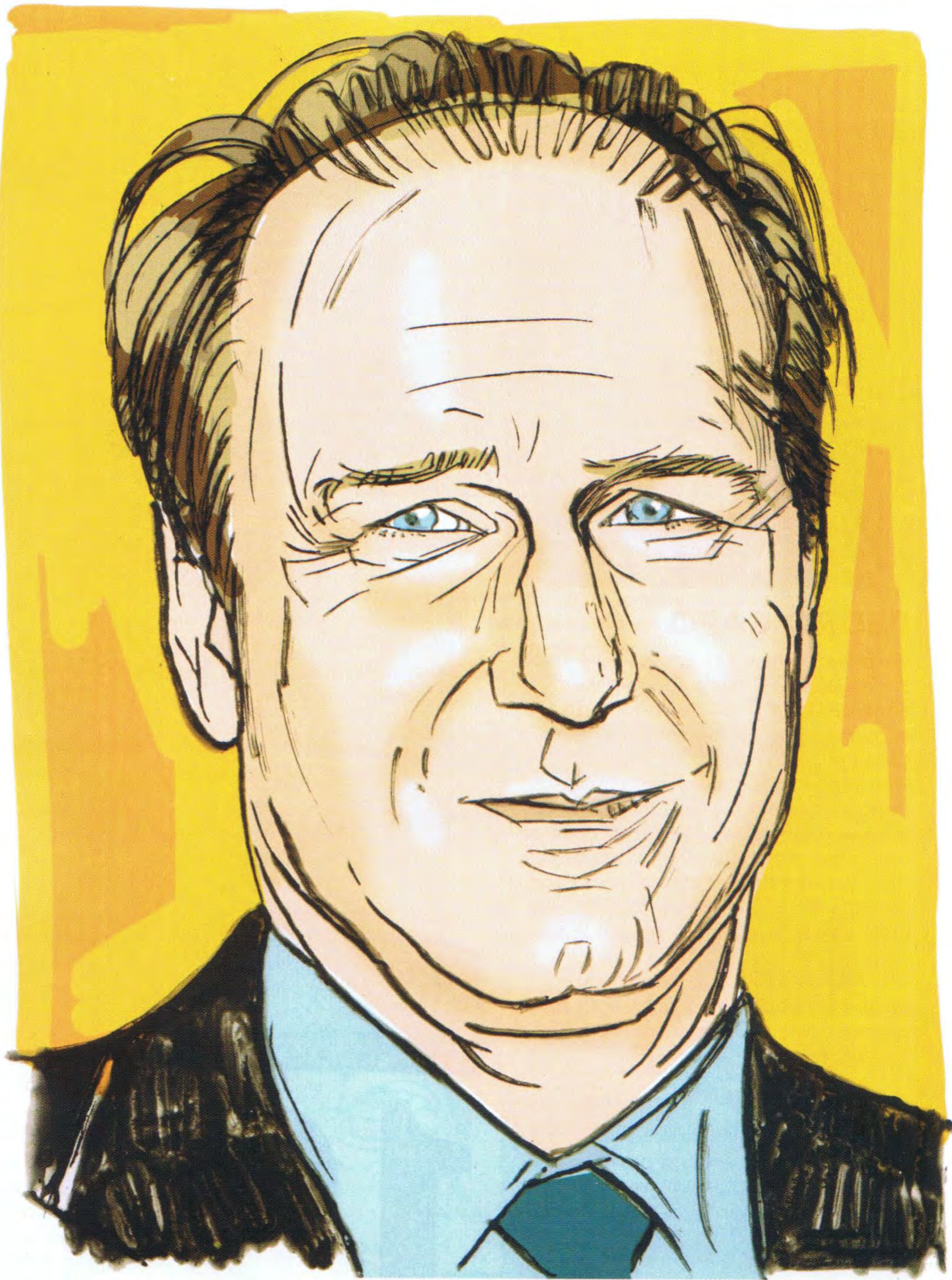
PHOTO: JEFFREY M. HARRIS; BRACCO: PABE/ELIZABETH ORRICO

17

WILLIAM HURT

While everyone else was going green by recycling, taking the bus to work, and surviving on locally grown turnips, actor William Hurt tried it a different way. The 58-year-old Rockland resident scored his first hit in a while in *The Incredible Hulk*, with Edward Norton as his giant, green-hued costar. Hurt played General Thaddeus "Thunderbolt" Ross, the military man bent on tracking down the Hulk so that the government could use his overbuilt, somewhat digitally silly-looking body as a weapon for the U.S. military. (Three-star generals are continually getting mired in these kinds of shenanigans.) And besides chasing raging mutants, Hurt has joined the cast of cable-TV's *Damages* for its second season, as a client to the star attorney, played by Glenn Close.

2007 RANKING None (fresh meat!)
2009 OUTLOOK Rumors say he may be cast in a Ridley Scott version of *Robin Hood*, which will begin filming next year. Russell Crowe has been mentioned for the lead.



JOE MORLEY AND HEATHER WINTERS

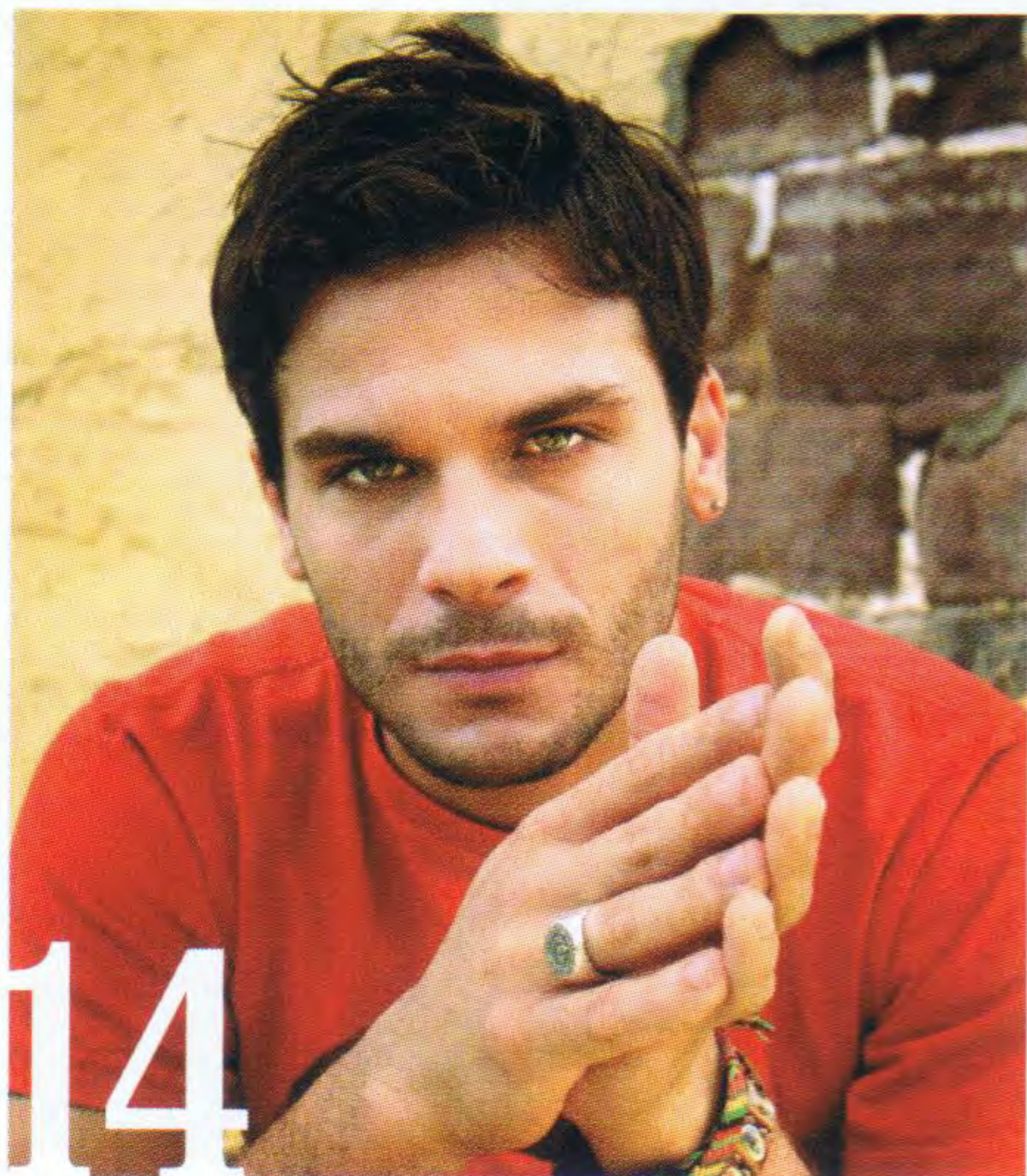
16 Nyack Studio on Hudson producer-duo Joe Morley and Heather Winters' latest Sundance entry, *Anywhere, USA*, won the Special Jury Prize "for the spirit of independence" and garnered comparisons to quirky cult classic *Napoleon Dynamite*.

2007 RANKING None (fresh meat!)
2009 OUTLOOK Don't be surprised if *Anywhere* meets the mainstream. Morley and Winters also co-produced *Super Size Me*, which became a super-sized hit.

ROSIE O'DONNELL

15 We guess there's room enough for two abrasive, outsized personalities in this world after all. In June, Rosie O'Donnell patched up a longtime feud with Howard Stern, who had been teasing O'Donnell on-air for years.

2007 RANKING 1
2009 OUTLOOK Rumor has it, O'Donnell is slated to appear on an hour-long variety special on NBC, just before Thanksgiving. If this should spin off, into a new series, will Stern be her co-host?



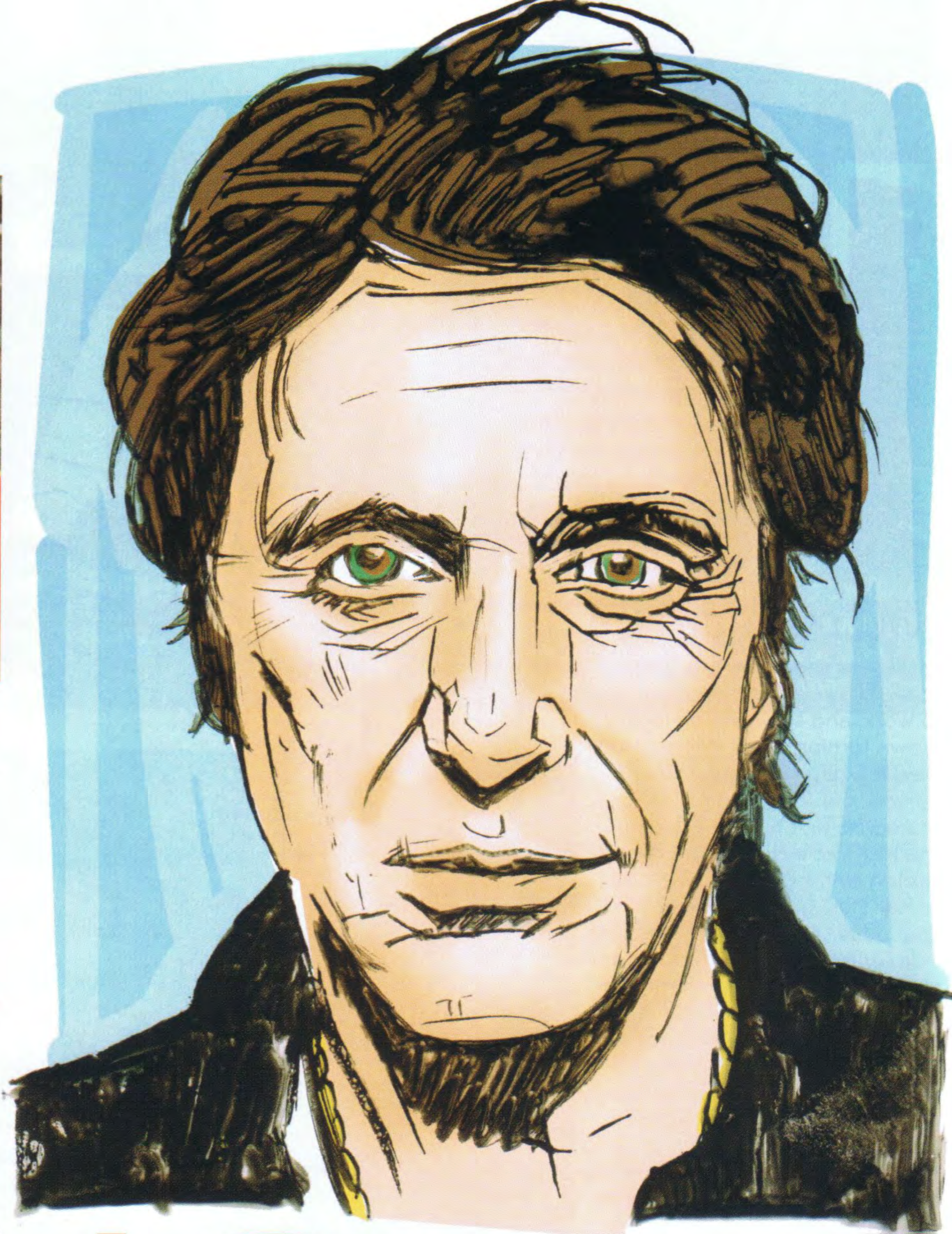
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PEDRO CAPÓ

We already knew lots about Pedro Capó, the musician. He has a contract with Song BMG but is still down-to-earth enough to turn up for jam sessions at Casa del Sol in Nyack. What we didn't know, though, is that he can act, too. Capó earned his way into the news with a major role in *Celia: The Life & Music of Celia Cruz*, which played off-Broadway this year, and he also appeared in *Paraíso Travel*, a Colombian film, featuring John Leguizamo, that recently landed at the Tribeca Film Festival.

2007 RANKING None (fresh meat!)

2009 OUTLOOK Capó will record some groovy 1970s-style salsa music and lead a resurgence of the genre.



12

AL PACINO

If we were Al Pacino, we'd take director Jon Avnet out for a quiet ride in a rowboat at dusk. It might have seemed like Avnet made the Sneden's Landing resident an offer he couldn't refuse—starring in *88 Minutes* and alongside Robert De Niro in *Righteous Kill*—but both performances got slashed by critics and fans alike. Though Al didn't hit any home runs in 2008, the Pacino family isn't striking out: His oldest daughter, Julie, a Tappan Zee High School grad, made the UCLA softball team.

2007 RANKING 11

2009 OUTLOOK Pacino will play Salvador Dali in *Dali & I: The Surreal Story*. It can't be a dud... can it?

SKIP STORCH

13 Despite a record-breaking, 33-hour, triple-loop swim around Manhattan (85.5 miles), Nyack's Skip Storch fell short of induction into the International Marathon Swimming Hall of Fame. But, in July, he marched up the red carpet at the ESPN Awards, as a "Best Outdoor Athlete" nominee.

2007 RANKING 14

2009 OUTLOOK We hope those snooty Hall of Fame officials give superstar Storch his due in 2009.

HAYDEN PANETTIERE

11 Panettiere released a video this October, which rallied voters to choose John McCain in November. Well, sort of. "Hi, I'm Hayden Panettiere. And I'm hot enough that I know I have your attention for at least 30 seconds. There are three things I think all citizens should do: smoke cigarettes, vote for John McCain, and don't wear a seat belt." Get it? It's ironic.

2007 RANKING 4

2009 OUTLOOK Cabinet position: Head of Cheerleader Affairs.



PHOTO COURTESY OF PEDRO CAPÓ; AL PACINO: OFFSHORE; HAYDEN PANETTIERE: JIM

ELLEN BURSTYN

10 Even Dubya covers before his mom—when she's played by Ellen Burstyn. The Nyack actress hit the mother lode of mother roles in *W. As Barbara Bush* in a bathrobe, she told her youngest son, "You can't win!" She also appeared as the surly lead detective's mom, Bernie Stabler, on TV's venerable *Law & Order: SVU*.

2007 RANKING 8

2009 OUTLOOK In *Greta*, Burstyn will step it up a notch by playing Hilary Duff's—gulp—grandmother.

BILL IRWIN

9 Nyack's Bill Irwin has been busy. On April 30, he and fellow Tony winner Nathan Lane will star in *Waiting for Godot* at Studio 54. In October, he graced the silver screen alongside Anne Hathaway in Jonathan Demme's *Rachel Getting Married*. To our delight, he has also continued to appear on *Sesame Street*, as the all-knowing Mr. Noodle.

2007 RANKING Irwin got a shout-out at number 19, as part of the "Riverspace Gang."

2009 OUTLOOK He'll keep using his noodle!



ROBERT EVERLE

Hey, what's that smell? Well, it could be coming from Robert Everle's one-acre "zoo from hell" in Haverstraw, where authorities found chickens, rabbits, puppies, ducks, and even a ram. They charged Everle with failing to provide sustenance to some of the animals, and he'll have a hearing this month.

2007 RANKING None (fresh meat!)

2009 OUTLOOK Everle cleans up his act (and backyard) and installs better living-facilities for the animals.

7

BILL MURRAY

Sneden's Landing resident Bill Murray has acted in lots of roles over the years: deranged groundskeeper, wise-cracking ghostbuster, and an old guy in Tokyo who really wants to sleep with Scarlett Johansson. But he's rarely gotten stuck playing the baddie—until this May, when his wife of 10 years filed for divorce, citing, among other things, Murray's "adultery, addiction to marijuana and alcohol, abusive behavior, physical abuse, sexual addictions, and frequent abandonment." Murray told the Associated Press in October that he felt "dead" and "broken." Apparently his depression (or need to rehab his reputation) even led him to agree to a very public skydiving event. Now, things seem to be looking up: Murray says he's rededicating himself to his career, and there's even talk of a *Ghostbusters III*.

2007 RANKING 9

2009 OUTLOOK Murray wins accolades for his lead role in *The Limits of Control*.





ANDREA JUNG

6 In 2005, Avon CEO and Chairman (ahem, chairwoman?) Andrea Jung gave her plummeting cosmetics company a serious makeover. As part of her plan, she increased incentives for direct sellers—no surprise to us, considering we named Avon's mammoth Research and Development Center in Suffern one of the county's best places to work. Even at the height of our 2008 global economic crisis, under Jung's watchful eye, Avon's earnings rose at least 24 percent over two quarters. For her hard work (and impeccable style!), Jung, 48, was ranked sixth on *Fortune's* list of most powerful women, this year.

2007 RANKING None (fresh meat!)

2009 OUTLOOK Jung will continue to prove that the old adage is true: Lipstick is the best recession pick-me-up.

JONATHAN DEMME

5 Locals have flocked to Nyack resident Jonathan Demme's documentaries about people like Neil Young and Jimmy Carter. But what happens when Demme, who directed *The Silence of the Lambs*, returns to fictive filmmaking? The critically acclaimed *Rachel Getting Married* (see No. 8), that's what. According to Demme, the 2008 film depicts a family, "warts and all."

2007 RANKING None (fresh meat!)

2009 OUTLOOK Demme's first Oscar year since Hannibal Lecter?



ANDREW KELLY

If you're planning to run from the law, Officer Andrew Kelly will catch you. In September, just two months after Kelly participated in a 24-hour, 100-mile race through Vermont's Green Mountains, the former marine and Clarkstown police officer chased down an identity thief, who had purchased more than \$3,000 in merchandise, using a credit card issued in a New York City firefighter's name. Fleeing police, the suspect crashed his car on Route 303 and started toward the woods, on foot. It took Kelly less than five minutes to catch and apprehend him.

2007 RANKING None (fresh meat!)

2009 OUTLOOK Can Kelly single-handedly curb the underage-drinking epidemic that has dominated the news this year? Maybe. Post Kelly—clad in camo—on the outskirts of keg-party raids, and not even the track stars will get away.

STEPHEN BALDWIN

3 Upper Grandview evangelical actor Stephen Baldwin gets more attention for his antics than his acting. In '08, he not only pledged to move to Canada if Obama gets elected, he challenged the presidential hopeful to a boxing match. "I'd like to knock some good sense into Barack," he told the *Daily News*. "I wouldn't hurt him. But if he wins the election, he'll hurt me. He's a cultural terrorist." At least he has one fan: On *SNL*, Sarah Palin quipped to Alec, "I must say, your brother Stephen is my favorite Baldwin brother."

2007 RANKING 18

2009 OUTLOOK Will he follow through on his threats? We don't think so, either.

LAUREN AND FRANK CLERI

2 This past February, Rockland residents watched Piermont couple Lauren and Frank Cleri air their dirty laundry on Fox's reality-TV show *Moment of Truth*, as Lauren admitted that she had cheated on her husband, an NYC cop.

2007 RANKING None (fresh meat!)

2009 OUTLOOK After splitting, the couple make headlines on *The Bachelor* and *The Bachelorette*.



1

BETH MODICA

Former Rockland prosecutor, PTA mom, police chief's wife... sex offender? When 44-year-old Beth Modica was sentenced to two years in prison, this July, for having sex with two teenaged boys, it forever changed the way the county would view sex criminals. Modica—who admitted to performing oral sex on a 15-year-old boy (incidentally, her daughter's boyfriend) and having intercourse with another, 16-year-old boy at a booze-and-weed-filled party at her own home—seemed to be reliving a sort of second adolescence. The judge had no sympathy, calling Modica a "disgusting monster" and sentencing her to the maximum term.

2007 RANKING None (fresh meat!)

2009 OUTLOOK Modica will be in a state prison in Buffalo until she finishes a program for sex-offenders.





NYACK'S SUNDANCE SWEETHEARTS

Given the flood of summer sequels and superheroes set to hit theaters after Memorial Day, it's tempting to say the movie business is in a creative rut. Which is precisely why everyone in Hollywood needs to catch a screening of *Anywhere USA*. Mind you, it's not an easy homework assignment; currently the film is only on the festival circuit, and, at 123 minutes, it's not short. But simply viewing the film's three quirky, absurdist acts—a couple's relationship ends due to a pistachio conspiracy theory; an orphaned girl finds out there's no tooth fairy; an affluent WASP sets out to make his first black friend—is like attaching jumper cables to your frontal lobe.

The film comes from the fertile gray matter of director Chusy Haney-Jardine, who wrote it with wife Jennifer MacDonald and filmed it with the help of the Nyack producers Heather Winters and Joe Morley. After it was screened at Sundance this year, some compared the characters (almost all played by non-actors) to *Napoleon Dynamite*; others referenced *Welcome to the Dollhouse*. The critics called it “a series of modern art projects,”

“experimental hokum,” and “wildly original.” Oh, and it also walked away with the festival's Special Jury Prize for Independent Spirit.

The language of the prize says a lot. Yes, *Anywhere* may be, as the *Washington Post* said, “anti-commercial,” but it's also anti-formulaic. “The word I like to use is ‘fresh,’” says Morley. “Maybe it's because he was born in Venezuela and lives here now, but Chusy's point of view is very different.” Scouting “fresh” talent is something Winters and Morley know something about. As the principals of Studio on Hudson, they also co-produced the documentary *Super Size Me* with Morgan Spurlock. “Those two films may seem very different,” says Morley, “but they actually have a lot in common. Namely, two new directors with a unique take and a lot of confidence.”

It's still uncertain whether *Anywhere* will be as big a hit as Spurlock's film, but Morley thinks the themes are universal. “The idea is that these clashes of cultures can go on anywhere,” he says. “When you scrape the surface in any small town in America, you can find a David Mamet play.” Or, for that matter, three of them. —Ted Mann



Nyack's Morley and Winters (top) produced *Anywhere USA*, an experimental indie that's both weird (middle) and touching (bottom).