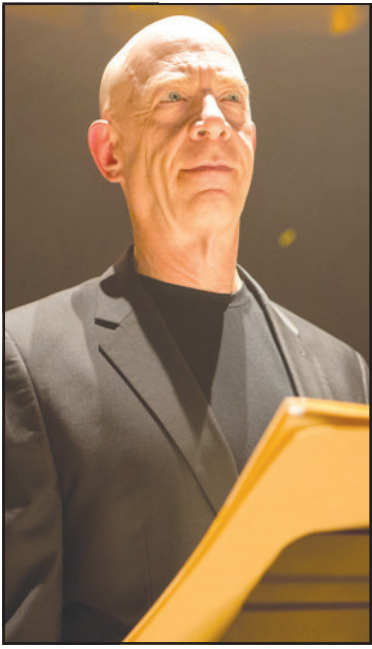


# HOLLYWOOD

by Tony Rizzo



Oscar winner J.K. Simmons ("Whiplash")

Brad Pitt, 61, is currently wrapping the American sports action/drama film "F1," which he's also producing with Jerry Bruckheimer. It co-stars Oscar winner Javier Bardem. Next, Pitt is jumping right into the action-adventure film "Heart of the Beast," about a former Army Special Forces soldier and his retired dog who battle for survival after a plane crash deep in the Alaskan wilderness. It's being produced by Oscar-winning director Damien Chazelle ("La La Land") and co-stars Oscar winner J.K. Simmons.

Simmons, 70, hasn't slowed down a bit after completing 114 films. His 115th film will be "The Accountant 2," opposite Ben Affleck, which is due on April 25. His 116th will be "The Prince" with Nicolas Cage, Giancarlo Esposito, Andy Garcia and Simon Rex, but there's no release date yet. His 117th will be the historical political drama "Reykjavik," co-starring Jeff Daniels, and his 118th will be the aforementioned "Heart of the Beast."

Simmons won his Oscar for "Whiplash" (2014), co-starring "Top Gun: Maverick's" Miles Teller, and was also nominated for his performance as William Frawley (of "I Love Lucy" fame) in "Being the Ricardos" (2021). Lest we forget Simmons' recent performances in the "Spider-Man" trilogy, in "Spider-Man: Across the Spider-Verse," and as Santa Clause in "Red One" (2024), which featured action stars Dwayne Johnson, Chris Evans and Lucy Liu. And of course, he's still the spokesman for Farmer's Insurance.

Timothee Chalamet is riding high after winning the Screen Actors Guild Best Actor award for "A Complete Unknown," which did poorly at the box office by only earning \$110 million against a \$70 million cost. Next, he stars with Gwyneth Paltrow; Tyler, the Creator; Penn Jillette; "Shark Tank's" Kevin O'Leary; and "The Nanny's" Fran Drescher in the sports drama "Marty Supreme" (due on Christmas Day).

Patrick Schwarzenegger, son of superstar and former California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger, has full-frontal-nude scenes in season three of "The White Lotus." Will this start a trend for male frontal nudity as a prerequisite for actors during their casting calls?

This could set a whole new standard for actors to, uh, measure up to the roles they are auditioning for!

\*\*\*

Barbara Broccoli won't be picking the next James Bond after all. In fact, she's sold the 007 franchise to Amazon MGM Studios. After 60 years of producing Bond films with her father, Cubby Broccoli,

who died of heart failure in 1996 at 87, she sold the rights -- no doubt for a pretty penny. This means that an American company now owns the rights to a British superspy series. Word is that they plan to go younger and make 007 somewhere in the 30- to 40-year-old range.

Sorry, Henry Cavill, at 41, you've missed it by a year. But this speaks well for Aaron Taylor-Johnson, the perennial front-runner for some time, who is only 34. Barbara has always maintained that she'd carry on the family tradition in her father's memory. So much for "My Bond is my word!"

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