



## JOHNNY DEPP

Considered one of the most honest and insightful actors of his generation, Johnny Depp has created some of the quirkiest characters of the last decade. In John Badham's *Nick of Time* Depp once again rises to a challenge, this time taking on the persona of a mild-mannered accountant forced to become a would-be assassin when his daughter is kidnapped.

**Q:** John Badham called you the Jimmy Stewart of the '90s.

**JD:** I've never been called that before. Jimmy Stewart is really a great actor; somebody I've always admired. It's very kind of him.

**Q:** Can you see the Hitchcockian elements in *Nick of Time* that might lead him to make that comparison?

**JD:** Definitely. When I read the screenplay I was on the edge of my seat. To me it had the sort of formula, I suppose, of a Hitchcock thriller, which was one of the major attractions for me. Also the idea of doing something in real time was appealing - the idea of doing something minute to minute, even though you're shooting within the course of two or three months. The continuity of the action, the continuity of the emotion, it was a real challenge.

**Q:** You've played what could safely be called an impressive catalog of quirky roles; did this appeal to you because of its more normal, everyday themes?

**JD:** Yes. The idea of playing a straight role was very appealing and very challenging. It's difficult to play a straight man and keep it interesting and honest. I guess a part of me was a little concerned... I've been trying to fight labels since I started working in this business. It used to be "teen idol," "teen hunk," "rebel," "bad boy," all that stuff. So I did my best to combat those things and then suddenly I started getting called "oddball," "strange" and "quirky." I thought that this was a good opportunity to take a sharp right turn and fight those labels again.

**Q:** So what would your instinct be if somebody took your daughter and threatened to kill her unless you followed his orders?

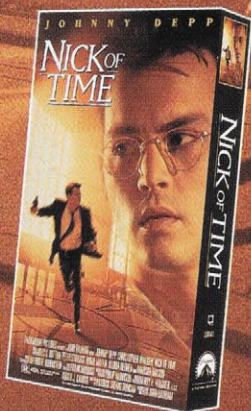
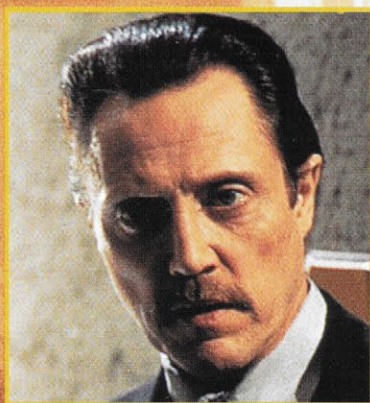
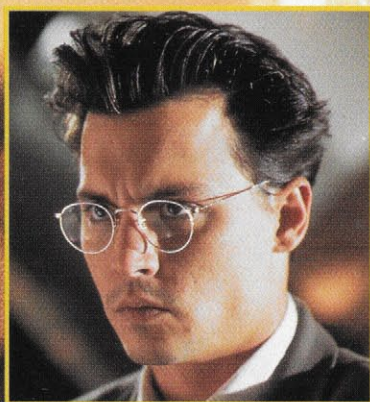
**JD:** That's the ultimate question for anyone, isn't it? We could easily say, "I would kill for my family," but when put in that situation, would you actually do it? If I had a daughter and this type of thing happened to her, I would do absolutely anything. Anything. No hesitation.

**Q:** Was that the key to your character then? That he was constantly aware of the danger his daughter was in?

**JD:** That was what I tried to get across. That was certainly the main objective. As challenging as it was to play, it's a very interesting character, I thought. It's just an interesting story... and a very interesting film.

AN INTERVIEW WITH THE STARS OF

# NICK OF TIME



## CHRISTOPHER WALKEN

One of the hardest-working actors in the entertainment industry, Christopher Walken has brought his special brand of casual intensity to over 40 films and earned several awards for his work, including a Best Supporting Actor Academy Award® for *The Deer Hunter*. In *Nick of Time*, Walken hones his familiarity with mean-spirited villains and quirky lowlifes to a razor-sharp edge, carving a memorable performance as Johnny Depp's watchdog opponent, "Mr. Smith."

**Q:** You seem like a nice guy. Why is it that every producer and director working today seems to want you to play these awful people?

**CW:** I don't know the answer. I think, obviously, it has something to do with my personality and how it translates via the camera to the audience. I'm lucky that I've got something that people respond to. And also, with movies, when you sort of get the ball rolling with a certain kind of character, chances are you'll be asked to do something like that again. You know, the funny guy is usually the funny guy, the mugger is the mugger. And then there's the villain type.

**Q:** Do you feel like you're getting typecast?

**CW:** No. I really think that as an actor just to be working is great. I enjoy playing villains. Maybe that's why I get the parts, because I think that I have a real actor's perspective on what I do and when I play these guys I know it's supposed to be fun. Movies are supposed to be fun no matter what they're about. I don't think I'd be as good a villain if I took it too seriously.

**Q:** As an actor, are you aware of those incredible moments when you just know that you're going to have the audience in the palm of your hand?

**CW:** I think there's a funny thing about acting in the movies. You read the script and you think, "ooh, that's a big scene," and then what usually happens is your big scene is one you never even knew was there. It's like Cagney said to somebody once, "I came home today. I sat around a lot. I didn't do much. But, I did one good look." I'm sure he was right. Sometimes your big scene can be just a look.

**Q:** And how was it working with Johnny Depp?

**CW:** It was great. Johnny is a very sweet guy and a terrific actor. I really liked all the people involved on this film. John Badham, he's a very wonderful man. Marsha Mason, terrific. Roma Maffia, keep your eyes on that one, she's good. We had a lot of scenes together. She's real good.

**Q:** Would you say that this is the best villain you've ever played?

**CW:** The best? Well, actually, I hope I haven't played that one yet. They're all fun. This one comes close, though. (Smiles) Yeah, this guy comes close...

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