

RAPID FIRE **JAMIE FOXX**



He's smooth, he's funny. He can sing and he can act. Ladies man Jamie Foxx stars in today's namesake flick and all-star rom-com, *Valentine's Day*. He shares his tips on how to enjoy the day.

WHAT'S YOUR VIEW ON VALENTINE'S DAY? I love it. It's fun to see who's really thinking about you. If you don't have someone, send a text to one you like: "Hey, Happy Valentine's Day" Or, if you're in a relationship, it's the day to get things right. It could last you for the whole year.

DOES YOUR TEENAGE DAUGHTER HAVE A VALENTINE? I don't think so. Her birthday is February 15, so I'm always her Valentine.

WE DON'T OFTEN SEE YOU IN ROMANTIC COMEDIES. WHY? You have to have the right romantic comedy. I look at movies and – if my hero is chopping people's heads off and there's a car chase and bullets – that's what I like. So when I see him all dolled up... I wish, within the romantic comedy, he'd kill someone during a scene, so I could enjoy it.

ARE YOU HAVING FUN AS A SINGER? When you sing in front of 10,000 people, and you look out and you see everybody singing, there's

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nothing like that. We have a song called *She Got Her Own*. I say, "Ladies, I'm looking for my independent woman out there, raise your hand. You don't need a man for nothing." (The audience cheers.) I say, "I'm looking for my Michelle Obama. Is my Michelle Obama out there?" (They scream: "I'm your Michelle!" (I say: "Because if you're my Michelle, then I'll be your Barack Obama." (They scream: "Be my Barack!" And then I do Barack Obama: "If there's any doubt that America is not the most incredible country in the world... Look, it's going to be tough, but yes we can.")

IS IT HARDER TO BE IN A MOVIE WHERE YOU'RE NOT THE ONLY STAR? It's great. I'm a fan. When I was working on *Dreamgirls* with Eddie Murphy I was going crazy, 'cos I was so excited. He was more reserved. I walked on the set and said: "Eddie! This is great, we're working together!" And I hugged him real tight. He's like: "Yeah, yeah, man, OK, take me to my

trailer please." I probably freaked out Jennifer Garner and Jessica Biel (on *Valentine's Day* shoot) because I follow them on the internet. Not in a stalking way. I told Jennifer: "I love your house." She said: "What are you talking about?" I said: "I saw it on the internet." She said: "You saw my house?" I said: "Yeah, loved it. Square footage, nice, Gregory Peck's house."

ARE THERE JOKES ON WHO'S GOT THE BIGGEST TRAILER? When you find the star that's really talented, there's usually no ego to it, like meeting Al Pacino. You would think this is the coolest guy in the world. (He's) almost introverted. When I first met him, he looked like Godfather and Scarface together, like Scarfather. So I said: "Hello Mr Pacino." He says: "Hey, you like cranberry juice?" I'm like: "What? You should be drinking whiskey."

YOUR TIPS FOR THE MODERN GUY? Call every once in a while. Text eloquently. Every time you text, if you really like that girl, go through a couple of books, find some poetry, reword it, hit 'em. You've got to understand when you text they're not listening, so your words have got to be right. I'm incredible (at texting). If you don't want to go out with me, I will text you in such a way that you go: "Come on over." **Sally Browne**

THE BACK STORY



THIS WEEK: From the streets of New York to the world stage, hip-hop legend, producer, author, scriptwriter, actor, philosopher and chess player RZA of Wu-Tang Clan has done it all. He spoke to **Sally Browne**

MY BIRTH name was Robert F. Diggs. I was named after Robert Kennedy and John F. Kennedy. My mother loved the Kennedys. But growing up in the 'hood in the mid-'70s, people would shun you if you had a name like Robert. They would say: "That's a slave name." At the time I felt like that, too. Who was Robert? So I went and got a name for myself, and the name I chose was Rakeem, which means to be original.

I was living life for a while, but then I went negative again. I went through turmoil then went back to the right level again, so RZA stands for Rakeem, Zig-Zag-Zig, Allah (taken from a US religious movement). It's like a title. It's like a man who's original, who looked in all directions – this way, that way and that way – to find God, or to find Allah.

As I grew older, I realised that the name Robert is a warrior name as well. The name that was given to people who had nobility. In the Bible it says: "You must honour thy mother and thy father." So now I take the name Robert as my honourable name, and Rakeem as my chosen name.

I think the highlight of 2009 was my re-acquaintance with good friends. Everybody's busy in this world and we don't get a chance to get with our friends and break bread. We did Wu-Tang shows. I did films with good people (starred with Seth Rogen in Judd Apatow's *Funny People*). Seth Rogen knows his hip-hop so well.

Creatively, writing *The Tao of Wu* was my highlight. I was so happy that it was well received. I was astounded that it made *The New York Times* bestseller list because it's based on me and my life. I'm just glad people accepted it and enjoyed it.

It took a year to do. I got Chris Norris, who helped me on the first *Wu-Tang Manual*, to help out. Chris

would interview me, keep digging like he was some kind of psychiatrist and I was lying on his couch. Some things I was like: "Don't put that in the book." He's like: "No, people will want to hear this." He convinced me that it's best to let the world know who you are, so I said: "All right then, go for it."

The warrior vibe of martial arts films was very appealing to me. What really sucked me into the martial art films was the brotherhood. There's a movie that we watched, called *Executioners from Shaolin*, where there's so much sacrificing going on, where top fighters sacrifice their lives so that the other fighters can live longer. It was the brotherhood that really captivated me, along with the philosophy.

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Me and my buddy Eli Roth have come up with a great screenplay. I wrote the first draft and Eli had some ideas to make it better. So we combined our time and energy together and we have a film called *The Man with the Iron Fist*, that we're scheduled to direct this year.

I learned from directors Quentin Tarantino and John Woo. But – as for directors I've worked for – the one that blew me away was Ridley Scott. He has multi-vision. He was sitting there thinking of seven things at one time. It was ridiculous to see a man have brain power like that. I have supreme respect for him. So I hope to one day have multi-vision.

RZA performs at the Hi-Fi, West End, tomorrow night: thehifi.com.au or 1300 843 434.

ITCH – WHAT'S HOT ON THE RADAR



SPANDAU BACK ON POINTE

All five original members of Brit synth-pop and dance group Spandau Ballet – known as the spirit of the youth of the '80s – are back together for a reunion tour. Remember those gob-smacking smash hits *True and Gold?* Spandau perform with Tears For Fears. Brisbane Entertainment Centre, April 27, tickets phone 132 849.



PLAYWRIGHTS FRONT PUBLIC

Hot New York playwright and maverick wordsmith Will Eno joins prominent Aussie playwrights David Williamson and Michael Gow in *Staged Lives: a conversation on theatre, writing and the line between life and fiction*, March 9, State Library of Queensland (auditorium 2). Meet the playwrights afterwards. Free event, but book on 3220 0841.



IT'S THE YEAR OF THE TIGER

Today is not just for sweethearts – it also marks the start of Chinese New Year and, in 2010, the year of the Tiger. Four days of fun, food and cultural delights are in store at Sunnybank Plaza – from kung fu and tai chi to feng shui and tiger mask-making. Catch the dragon dance today at 3pm and the lion dance daily at 10.30am.



THIS UNUSUAL (& FUNNY) LIFE

Comedian Akmal Saleh puts his world into words in his hilarious memoir *The Life of Akmal*, out March 1 (Ebury, \$34.95). Find out how the Egyptian and Oz-raised Saleh learnt from his parents in 1974 they were moving from Cairo to Sydney for "a family holiday". See Akmal at Avid Reader, West End, March 5 at 6pm, 3846 3422.



QPAC IS TURNING 25

Actors, dancers, musicians and artists – the stars of QPAC – take centre stage for a photo portrait show celebrating the performing arts centre's 25th birthday. Photographer Justine Walpole's (above) shots of 25 Queensland artists – such as Katie Noonan and Natalie Weir – will be on show at QPAC, February 23 until May 22.



WINDOWS ON EUROPE

The Windows on Europe Film Festival has a line-up from 17 countries, and includes the Oscar-nominated *Daens* and *The Age of Stupid* (still, above), with Pete Postlethwaite as a man living in a devastated 2055, wondering why nothing was done about climate change. At Dendy Postside from Saturday until February 28.



TO MARKET WITH MATT

ARIA Brisbane chef and *Event* columnist Matt Moran (above) is set to turn up the heat at the farmers' markets when he showcases his cooking prowess on February 24, Queen St market locale, noon to 2pm. Moran will also do a Q&A, after which he'll hook up with market doyenne Jan Power to do the rounds of that day's market fare.