

A CELEBRATION OF TOP GUN'S 40TH BIRTHDAY

SAN DIEGO[®]

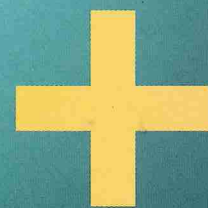
MAGAZINE

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THE Insider



Scarlett Johansson

NERDLEBRITIES GALORE: As usual, Comic-Con brought a cavalcade of celebs to the convention center, and despite the prospect of being mobbed by costumed fanboys and girls, some of them ventured beyond the exhibition halls. Visitors to Sè Hotel caught glimpses of alien-fighting bad-ass **Sigourney Weaver**, model **Amber Valetta** and well-inked *Juno* scribe **Diablo Cody**, while the Ivy scored when *Iron Man II* stars **Scarlett Johansson**, **Robert Downey Jr.** and **Don Cheadle** checked in for the weekend. The newly superfit ScarJo's dinner at Quarter Kitchen included caviar, roasted beet and avocado salad, stir-fried veggies and spicy blackened hamachi.

MEANWHILE, IN THE NIGHTCLUB: **Elijah Wood** was spotted partying at Envy, along with Downey and **Ludacris**, and kept the good times going into the next day while sipping mojitos on the Ivy's rooftop sundeck. Several cast members from *Lost* also stayed at the Ivy, including **Michael Emerson** (a.k.a. Ben Linus), **Jorge Garcia** (Hurley), **Josh Holloway** (Sawyer) and **Dominic Monaghan** (Charlie). Sadly, no Jack Shephard sightings were reported.

TALL DRINK OF WATER: After ribbing the kayakers and boaters attempting to crash his recent gig at Humphey's, comedian **Joel McHale** retired to the Four Seasons Aviara for the night. The 6-foot-4 actor and host of E!'s *Talk Soup* enjoyed family time with his wife, **Sarah**, and two sons, who spent time splashing about in the pool. Hale's new sitcom, *Community*, premieres this fall on NBC.

EVEN VAMPIRES LOVE PIZZA (JUST HOLD THE GARLIC): Focus Features hosted its Comic-Con bash at East Village's Basic Urban Kitchen to promote two of its new films: the vampire-themed *Thirst* and

the **Tim Burton**-produced animated fantasy *9*. Partygoers drank thirst-quencher cocktails made from cranberry juice poured from "blood bags," while Burton, dressed in head-to-toe black, shared a pepperoni pie with friends in a back corner of the industrial warehouse lounge.

TRACK STARS: Opening day at Del Mar Racetrack was a star-studded affair as usual: *Hills* star **Audrina Patridge**, lately better known for her impressive ability to scarf hamburgers while wearing a gold bikini, waited in the Director's Room—along with California Horse Racing Board member **Bo Derek**—before presenting the trophy to the winning jockey-horse duo after the fourth race. Later, Patridge presided over an opening-day party at L'Auberge Del Mar. Also spotted at the track: former Miss California **Carrie Prejean**, who sang "Where the Surf Meets the Turf" between the fourth and fifth races; Prejean was joined in the Winners Circle and in her suite by notorious ladies' man **Wilmer Valderrama**.

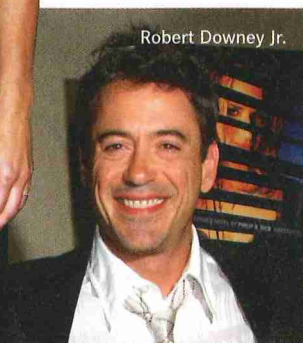
—RACHEL ZENN SACHS



Have a celebrity sighting to report?
E-mail us at insider@sandiegomagazine.com.



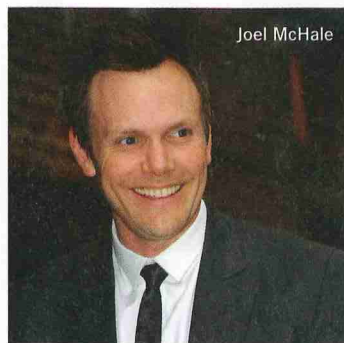
Sandra Bullock



Robert Downey Jr.



Bo Derek



Joel McHale

UPTOWN GIRL: Actress **Sandra Bullock** opted for Balboa Park over zombies and caped crusaders, ducking in to see the Richard Avedon photography show at San Diego Museum of Art while Comic-Con was in full swing downtown.

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