

Interview Highlights of 2009: Quentin Tarantino, Jason Reitman, Rachel Weisz, More

Submitted by [BrianTT](#) [1] on December 31, 2009 - 1:42pm

- [Angie Dickinson](#) [2]
- [Brian Tallerico](#) [3]
- [Harold Ramis](#) [4]
- [HollywoodChicago.com Content](#) [5]
- [Interview](#) [6]
- [Jason Reitman](#) [7]
- [Kellan Lutz](#) [8]
- [Martin Landau](#) [9]
- [Martin Short](#) [10]
- [Mike Judge](#) [11]
- [Neil Blomkamp](#) [12]
- [Quentin Tarantino](#) [13]
- [Rachel Weisz](#) [14]
- [Spike Jonze](#) [15]
- [Tony Curtis](#) [16]
- [Woody Harrelson](#) [17]

CHICAGO – The staff at HollywoodChicago.com met with some living legends and some rising stars in 2009. As we prepare to bring you even more in 2010, we thought we'd look back at a few of our favorite quotes from the year. Enjoy.

Highlights of the year in chronological order:

Writer/Director [Kyle Newman](#) [18] on the troubled production of “Fanboys” - ““It was very disheartening to watch everything that you’ve done positive be undermined in a week by a bunch of idiots, this team that was brought in to do this. Mainly just the director who they brought in to re-shape it who was opening his mouth online and really offending our core audience. So, I was shocked. I was like, “Oh my God.” It was just getting out of control and here we are on the sidelines and I’m watching the movie fall apart. I’m watching our fanbase dissipate.””

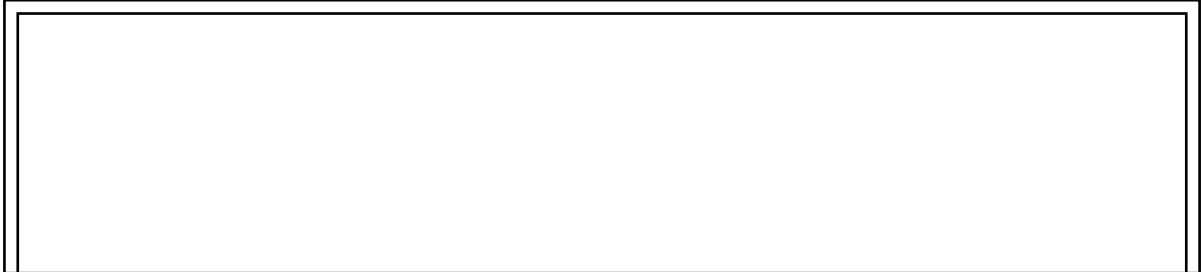
Writer/Director [Henry Selick](#) [19] (“Coraline”) on taking chances with modern animation - “And I am not just talking about stuff like Robot Chicken or South Park. The current version of Batman is dark—it is great and beautifully art-directed and that is what my 10-year-old loves the most. I think it is a strange thing, with movies in particular, that people want to pretend that it is 20 years ago and there is no Internet or adventurous animation on television—that is where we are being prevented from reaching kids.”



Actor [Craig Robinson](#) [20] on “The Office” - “The show will always have a lot of heart even though it is set in a world where the most outrageous things can happen. I am actually surprised sometimes on how much heart they put in it, balanced with the humor.”

Actor [Tony Curtis](#) [21] on what advice he would give his younger self: “Pay attention to everyone around you. Learn little subtleties about what the human condition is like. You’ll meet people who don’t ever express who they are or what they want to be. We’re all made up of secrets.”

Actress [Angie Dickinson](#) [22] on her career - “Some roles were great, some not so great. But just like a ballplayer, if you hit .375 that’s not too bad.”





James Toback and Mike Tyson

Photo credit: Tracey Morris, Courtesy of Sony Pictures Classics

Writer/Director [James Toback](#) [23] on his subject's response to seeing his film "Tyson" - "People always used to say they were afraid of me and I wondered, 'Why? What are you afraid of? Why would people be scared of me?' Watching the film tonight I realized that I'm scared of that guy.'"

Writer/Director [Pete Docter](#) [24] ("Up") on what makes Pixar unique - "We have a system where people are selfless about giving up their own time, their own energy, their own comments," says Docter. "Brad [Bird] will be off in the middle of directing something and we'll drag him in to watch this movie and he'll spew out all these great ideas that I get to use and then I'll do the same with whoever comes along next. Between that and the philosophy of "If you don't make mistakes, you're not taking enough risk." We're sort of expected to fail along the way. It's expected that we're going to falter and pull the emergency cord and get everybody on board to make this good."

Actress [Rachel Weisz](#) [25] on her chemistry with Adrien Brody in "The Brothers Bloom" - "You just get to know them. That stuff is very unconscious. You can't make chemistry happen. It just have to happen. You're playing a character and what happens between the characters is what happens. It's fiction, but it's real."

Writer/Director [Duncan Jones](#) [26] in the inspiration for "Moon" - "Most of the stuff was quite personal, to be honest. Story-wise, it was really something that I came up with because I wanted to address a few things in my own experience - the idea of being able to meet yourself and talk to a younger version of yourself and maybe give yourself a little slap. Or tell yourself that everything is going to be okay. That was something I found interesting and assumed that everyone has gone through - wanting to be able to tell the younger you that either everything is going to be fine or that you need to change something."

Writer/Director [Harold Ramis](#) [27] on the ensemble approach to comedy - "Well, you know, I can only think of one comedy director who does it all. That's Woody Allen. He trusts his own instincts totally. I come from the kind of comedy where it's only funny and as good as the people around you. People think directors tell actors what to do, but essentially a big part of the job is hiring the person who's already doing it right or already doing it better than you even imagined it."



Writer, director and actor Harold Ramis strikes a pose for his hometown HollywoodChicago.com lens before being honored with the Just for Laughs lifetime achievement award at the Chicago premiere of his latest film "Year One" on June 16, 2009 in Chicago.

Photo credit: [Joe Arce](#) [28] of [Starstruck Foto](#) [29] for HollywoodChicago.com

Actor [Martin Short](#) [30] remembering friends Gilda Radner and John Candy - "Gilda and John were two very close friends of mine, and they are the same memories that you would have with any close friends. A million laughs, a million funny dinners and hysterical moments. Great times. I can see them walking through that tent (pointing) right now. Sometimes when you so saturated with people they never leave you. That is what is great about them."

Writer/Director [Neil Blomkamp](#) [31] on Peter Jackson's involvement with "District 9" - "When I got Halo and when they helped me make District 9, I was very grateful. To give a film as big as Halo to a first-time director was a big deal and that hinged on Pete. When that collapsed, they allowed this to happen. When I was making the film, you get lulled into a sense of repetition. You're existing and not thinking because you're working like a motherf**ker. At the end, now that the film is done, I'm starting to realize again how appreciative I am. It's pretty rare for a first time filmmaker to get "go off and make what you want to make".

Writer/Director [Quentin Tarantino](#) [32] on his respect for the modern-day film critic - "I like reading good film criticism. If I think they're off base and they just reject my aesthetic, that's one thing. But if they actually have something thoughtful to say one way or another, that's good food for thought."



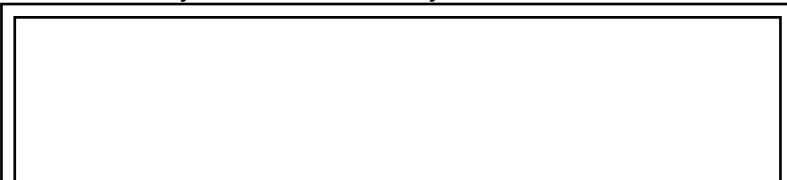
Writer and director Quentin Tarantino poses for the HollywoodChicago.com lens in this exclusive, off-the-red-carpet portrait with his career achievement award on Aug. 18, 2009 at the summer gala for the 45th-annual Chicago International Film Festival premiere of his new film "Inglourious Basterds".

Photo credit: Joe Arce of [Starstruck Foto](#) [29] for HollywoodChicago.com

Writer/Director [Bobcat Goldthwait](#) [33] on his goal in making movies - "I'm trying to make movies that I would go to. If it works for other people, that's awesome, but I spent most of my career just reacting to whatever was offered me or trying to pursue the things that Lance is trying to pursue - meet women and get rich. It doesn't work and it's not very fulfilling."

Writer/Director [Mike Judge](#) [34] on ideas he's had for Beavis & Butthead since the show ended - "I like to leave the door open, but it seems like every time I do that someone announces it as happening. Right after the movie, I said, "No way I'm ever doing that again. Screw these people." But then I end up missing the characters. When I was writing Idiocracy, the guy I was writing it with, Etan Cohen, and I kept coming up with ideas. I wanted them to just randomly end up working tech support. You have a computer problem and you end up getting Butthead. (Laughs.) Or something like that. Etan was buying a car at the time and we would talk about the tactics that car salesmen used and how Beavis and Butthead would be funny in that world. We could see how all those tactics would play on them. I also had an idea that was probably too quickly after September 11th where they would get involved with some group the government was looking for. The promise of 70 virgins would motivate them...the CIA would be after them..."

Actor [Richard Dreyfuss](#) [35] on the cycle of life - "When you walk by a window when you are 10 years old, you look 10, you feel 10. There you walk by when you're 15 and you're 15. But when you get to age 45, there is a little disconnect, as if the film is out of synch. And at 55, there is a definite disconnect between what you're seeing and how you're feeling. And then one day you walk by a window and you say, who the f**k is that? And you realize that's you, and it's an old Jewish man in the window."





Woody Harrelson still scanning the red carpet perimeters for potential zombies at the Chicago premiere of "Zombieland" Sept. 28th 2009.

Photo credit: Joe Arce/HollywoodChicago.com

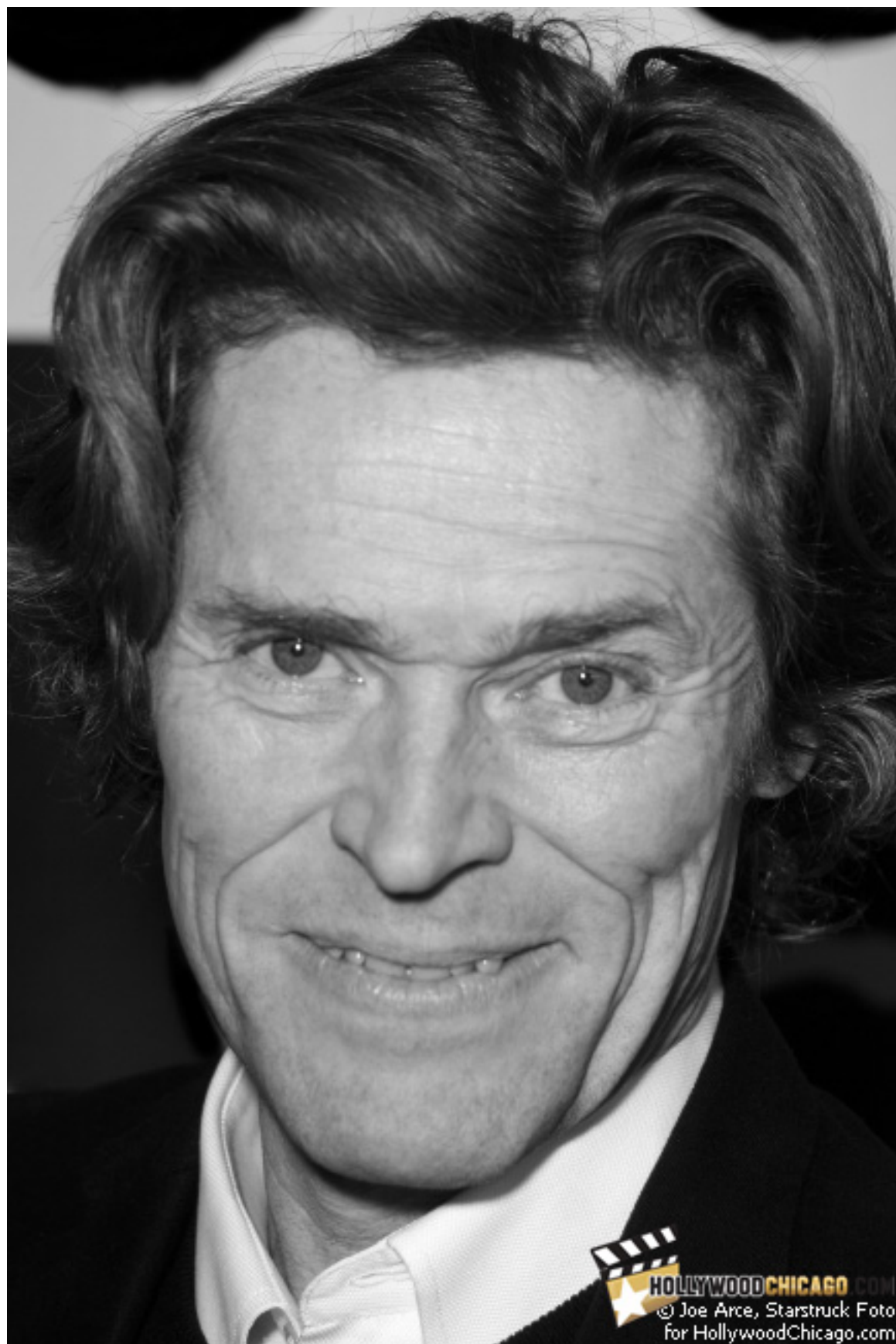
Actor [Woody Harrelson](#) [36] on the influence of the real world on the popularity of zombie movies - "I think that a lot of it does have to do with having eight years of an administration that made us believe that zombies are taking over. Then again, I do think that maybe the vampires are a little bit ahead right now."

Writer/Director [Michael Moore](#) [37] on disappointment with President Obama - "Well, that's because we were SO exhausted after eight years and everybody just wanted change immediately. But we know what the reality is. We've got the best guy we can get in there right now. He's a smart guy. He comes from the working class. He's gonna do right by us. I believe."

Writer/Director [John Woo](#) [38] on China - "The country is changing in a good way. Because I care about China, I love China, I want to see the country get better and better. I was touring in Beijing a few years ago, there after a long absence. I was quite amazed to see many happy faces. The young people all are smiling and realizing they have hope and a better future."

Writer/Director [Spike Jonze](#) [39] on "Where the Wild Things Are" - "I don't find life to be that simple. I'm more interested in trying to capture what life is like. Life isn't simple. Life has a lot of grays. Things can be contradictory. Relationships have a lot of different sides to them," Jonze said. "You're just trying to put in everything you can. If you're exploring a theme, you're going to try to approach it from all sides of that theme as opposed to just 'it's like this'."

Actor [Willem Dafoe](#) [40] on the process of a difficult film like "Antichrist" - "I never think of what I do as therapy but what I do is very personal, so how can you not take it personally. That's the only way you don't become cynical about what you do. It has to stay personal. You're exploring how you feel, seeing how your brain works, your relationship to other people, challenge what you think about who you are, the myth of personality, etc. You're playing with a lot of things that aren't intended as therapy but bringing your life into your work. These are things I think about anyway but they're focused in a constructive way."



Willem Dafoe on the red carpet for the Chicago International Film Festival premiere of Antichrist.

Photo credit: Joe Arce/HollywoodChicago.com

Actor [Martin Landau](#) [41] on the secret to great directors - "That's the secret - casting the right person, somebody with the range and understanding to play your character, and then opening a door and creating a space for them to have fun. I haven't been directed, literally, in thirty years by anybody. I haven't been given a direction. I come in with stuff and I figure if they don't like it they'll tell me. They don't tell me. I hit my marks, I say the words, and I go home. All an audience wants to believe is that what's going on between two or more people is happening for the first time ever. That's what you have to create in a positive sense. It's a dynamic of behavior - what's going on NOW. That's what's exciting about what I do."

Actress [Gabourey Sidibe](#) [42] on what attracted her to the lead character in "Precious" - "I felt like I knew her, certainly. I felt like I was related to her, she was a family member, a friend. But Precious is a person I didn't really want to be a friend with, she had a little too much drama. But I did feel guilty because the point of Precious is that she did feel neglected and ignored. And I've been part of the people who have neglected and ignored her. That guilt opened my heart, and I felt so much more compassion for her."

Actor [Kellan Lutz](#) [43] ("The Twilight Saga: New Moon") on the art of fan appreciation - "You give 'em a hug, they wet your shirt and they freak out and faint. Then the paramedics are there. It's great."



Kellen Lutz of "The Twilight Saga: New Moon" in Chicago on Nov. 11, 2009.

Photo credit: Adam Fendelman of HollywoodChicago.com

Writer/Director [Jason Reitman](#) [44] on the attachment to his lead character in "Up in the Air" - "This is very much about me. I'm a guy who collects air miles freakishly. I'm a guy who's constantly thinking about the idea of living alone. I like being alone. I cherish my alone time. I love being on the road. I love being in planes. I can go days, weeks alone. And, yet, I have a wife, kid, and I get to do what I want for a living. It's not like I have an incomplete life. I guess this is what nags me. No matter how complete and successful my life is, I'm still very much drawn to the idea of waking up in a city where I know no one and have nothing. On this movie, I would just fly to a city and just live in a hotel for a few days. I guess that's the part of me that's really central to this story."

Actor [Sean Patrick Flanery](#) [45] on the cult success of "Boondock Saints" - "Everybody thinks they know. Executives say: 'We do this for a living.' Well, you f*cked up. You f*cked up! You didn't put this in the theater, and with no advertising, people just picked it up and said: 'You're an idiot. This is a good film.'"

Actor [Ernest Borgnine](#) [46] on if life is better now than it used to be - "I don't think so. We've got faster automobiles, and everyone lives faster, but I don't know whether it's worth it or not. Because nobody stops to enjoy what life is all about. By going so fast, I think they're missing out on a helluva lot of good stuff."

For much, much more, check out our interview page [here](#) [6].



[47]

By [BRIAN TALLERICO](#) [48]
Content Director
HollywoodChicago.com
brian@hollywoodchicago.com [47]

Source URL (retrieved on Mar 29 2024 - 5:45am):

<http://www.hollywoodchicago.com/news/9612/interview-highlights-of-2009-quentin-tarantino-jason-reitman-rachel-weisz-more>

Links:

- [1] <http://www.hollywoodchicago.com/users/briantt>
- [2] <http://www.hollywoodchicago.com/news/angie-dickinson>
- [3] <http://www.hollywoodchicago.com/news/brian-tallerico>
- [4] <http://www.hollywoodchicago.com/news/harold-ramis>
- [5] <http://www.hollywoodchicago.com/news/hollywoodchicagodotcom-content>
- [6] <http://www.hollywoodchicago.com/labels/interview.html>

- [7] http://www.hollywoodchicago.com/labels/jason_reitman.html
- [8] <http://www.hollywoodchicago.com/news/kellan-lutz>
- [9] <http://www.hollywoodchicago.com/news/martin-landau>
- [10] <http://www.hollywoodchicago.com/news/martin-short>
- [11] <http://www.hollywoodchicago.com/news/mike-judge>
- [12] <http://www.hollywoodchicago.com/news/neil-blomkamp>
- [13] <http://www.hollywoodchicago.com/news/quentin-tarantino>
- [14] <http://www.hollywoodchicago.com/news/rachel-weisz>
- [15] <http://www.hollywoodchicago.com/news/spike-jonze>
- [16] <http://www.hollywoodchicago.com/news/tony-curtis>
- [17] <http://www.hollywoodchicago.com/news/woody-harrelson>
- [18] <http://www.hollywoodchicago.com/news/6750/cancer-cameos-cuts-with-fanboys-director-kyle-newman>
- [19] <http://www.hollywoodchicago.com/news/6767/interview-the-other-world-of-animation-with-coraline-director-henry-selick>
- [20] <http://www.hollywoodchicago.com/news/7190/interview-five-questions-for-craig-robinson-of-the-new-film-miss-march-and-tvs-the-office>
- [21] <http://www.hollywoodchicago.com/news/7359/interview-legendary-star-tony-curtis-likes-it-hot-in-his-life-and-career>
- [22] <http://www.hollywoodchicago.com/news/7376/interview-angie-dickinson-on-the-big-break-the-rat-pack-and-police-woman>
- [23] <http://www.hollywoodchicago.com/news/7629/talking-tyson-with-writerdirector-james-toback>
- [24] <http://www.hollywoodchicago.com/news/7797/interview-riding-the-animated-wave-up-with-pixar-s-pete-docter>
- [25] <http://www.hollywoodchicago.com/news/7806/interview-oscar-winner-rachel-weisz-creates-magic-with-the-brothers-bloom>
- [26] <http://www.hollywoodchicago.com/news/7955/interview-to-the-stars-with-moon-director-duncan-jones>
- [27] <http://www.hollywoodchicago.com/news/8007/harold-ramis-interview-a-lifetime-of-achievements-with-a-chicago-look-at-year-one>
- [28] <http://www.hollywoodchicago.com/news/joe-arce>
- [29] <http://www.starstruckfoto.com>
- [30] <http://www.hollywoodchicago.com/news/8024/just-for-laughs-chicago-martin-short-on-his-own-character>
- [31] <http://www.hollywoodchicago.com/news/8394/neill-blomkamp-sharlto-copley-escape-from-district-9>
- [32] <http://www.hollywoodchicago.com/news/8448/interview-inglourious-basterds-mastermind-quentin-tarantino-does-chicago>
- [33] <http://www.hollywoodchicago.com/news/8548/interview-writer-director-bobcat-goldthwait-on-world-s-greatest-dad-with-robin-williams>
- [34] <http://www.hollywoodchicago.com/news/8559/from-office-space-to-extract-with-writer-director-mike-judge>
- [35] <http://www.hollywoodchicago.com/news/8754/interview-an-ice-cream-social-with-oscar-winner-richard-dreyfuss>
- [36] <http://www.hollywoodchicago.com/news/8848/surviving-the-zombie-apocalypse-with-woody-harrelson-jesse-eisenberg-of-zombieland>
- [37] <http://www.hollywoodchicago.com/news/8855/interview-michael-moore-on-detroit-obama-health-care-capitalism-a-love-story>
- [38] <http://www.hollywoodchicago.com/news/8968/interview-john-woo-and-his-red-cliff-premiere-on-the-red-carpet-at-the-chicago-internation>
- [39] <http://www.hollywoodchicago.com/news/9033/interview-where-the-wild-things-are-director-spike-jonze-max-records-catherine-keener>
- [40] <http://www.hollywoodchicago.com/news/9094/interview-willem-dafoe-on-controversial-antichrist-from-lars-von-trier>
- [41] <http://www.hollywoodchicago.com/news/9167/interview-fifty-years-of-filmmaking-with-martin-landau>
- [42] <http://www.hollywoodchicago.com/news/9189/interview-director-lee-daniels-star-gabourey-sidibe-on-precious>
- [43] <http://www.hollywoodchicago.com/news/9295/interview-kellan-lutz-the-twilight-saga-new-moon-chicago-satiating-fans>
- [44] <http://www.hollywoodchicago.com/news/9396/interview-jason-reitman-takes-personal-journey-with-up-in-the-air>
- [45] <http://www.hollywoodchicago.com/news/9469/interview-the-boondock-saints-ii-all-saints-day-director-troy-duffy-sean-patrick-flanery>
- [46] <http://www.hollywoodchicago.com/news/9571/interviews-christmas-stars-shine-with-mickey-rooney-ernest-borgnine-tippi-hendren-larry-ha>
- [47] <mailto:brian@hollywoodchicago.com>
- [48] <http://www.hollywoodchicago.com/about#BRIAN>