

PLUS! TONY DANZA BEST DRESSES, 2001 ELIJAH WOOD

BIOGRAPHY MAGAZINE

Every life has a story.

# Biography



Who Am I?

See page 20

## 50 American Classics

Frank Sinatra

Oprah Winfrey

Marilyn Monroe

John Glenn

Julia Roberts

FDR

Jerry Seinfeld

Martin Luther King Jr.

Madonna

...and more!

Alfred Nobel

Man of War,  
Man of Peace

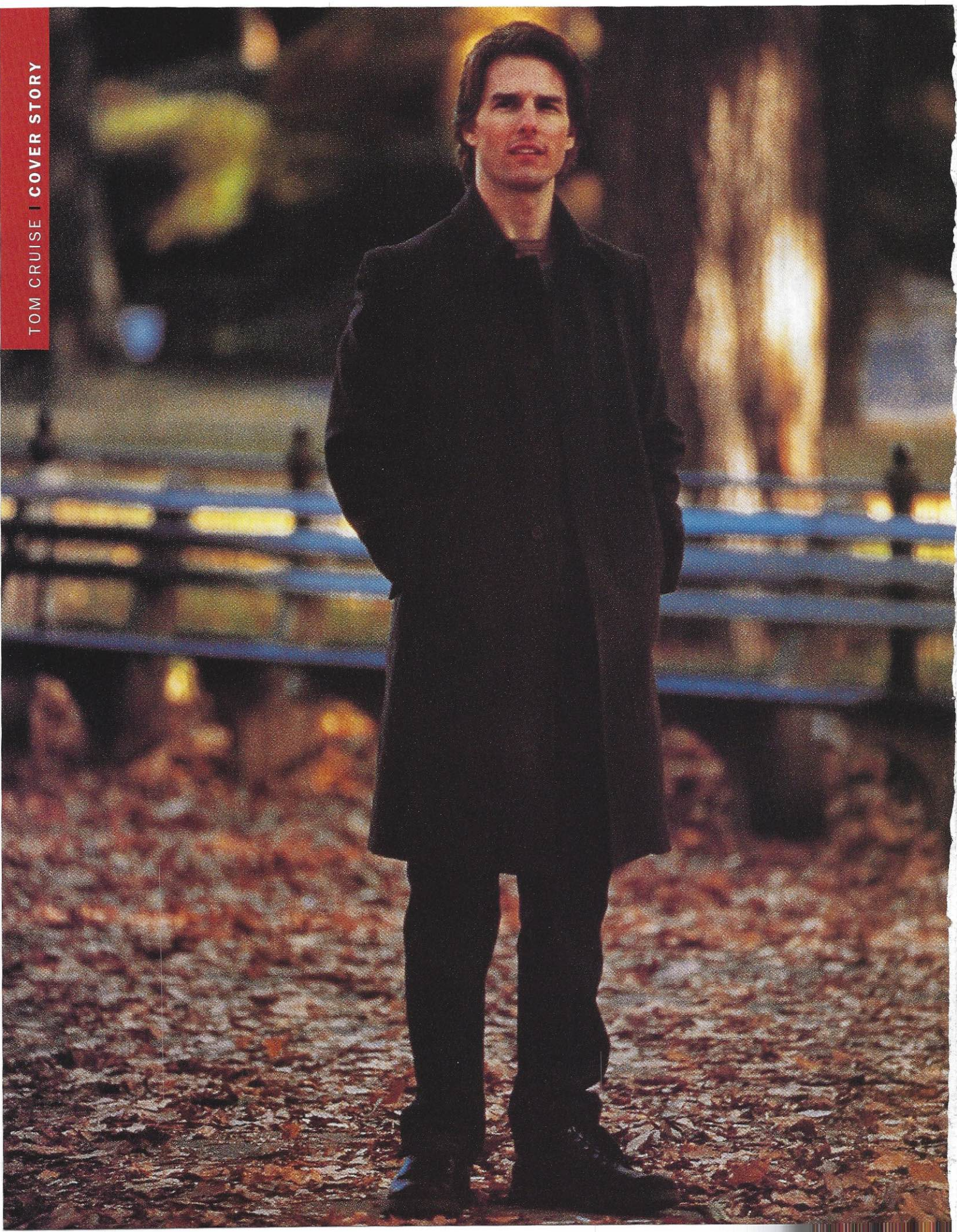
# Tom Cruise

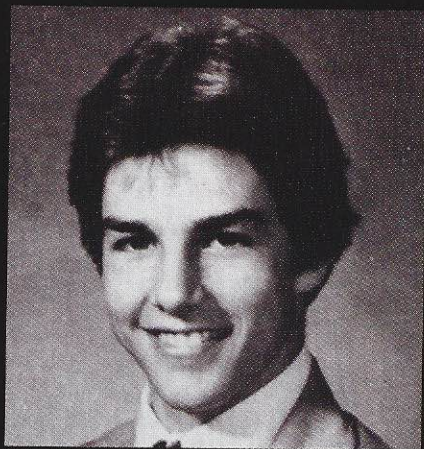
## The Year That Changed Everything

TOM CRUISE...AMERICAN CLASSICS...ALFRED NOBEL

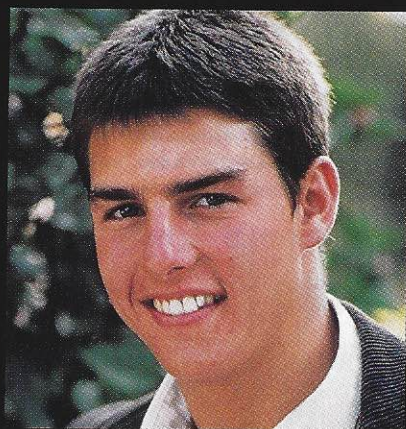
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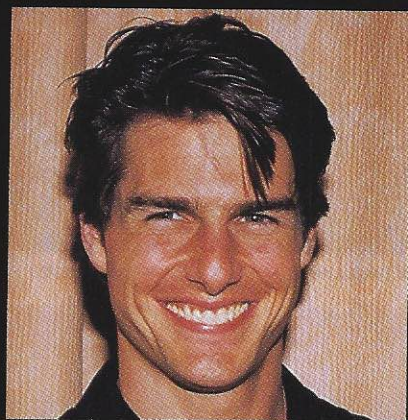




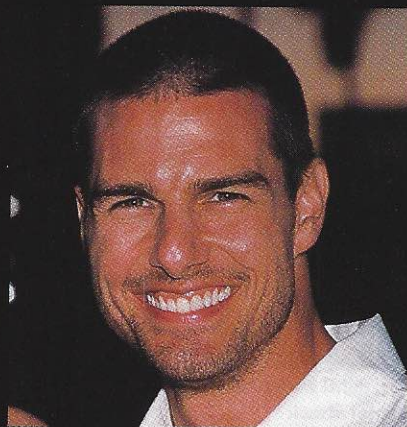
1980



1984



1993



2001

## An Intimate Talk With Tom Cruise

**T**his may be one of the toughest things Tom Cruise has done all year. True, he's had to field intrusive questions about both his recent divorce from Nicole Kidman and his love scenes—onscreen and off—with *Vanilla Sky* co-star Penélope Cruz. But those were a walk in the park compared to what he's talking about today.

This is one of the first interviews Cruise has granted since the terrorist attack on the World Trade Center on September 11th, and like the rest of us, he can think of little more than the tragedy and the lives it profoundly affected. Though some time has passed, he is still stunned, saddened, and struggling to convey his grief and concern.

"There really are no words," he says quietly. Then, suddenly, they come to him in a flood of emotion: "I have to admire all of you in New York, everyone who went to work and keeps going to work and keeps going *period*. I'm more determined than ever to help in any way that I can. I've been telling people, 'random acts of kindness.' That's what's important. Be there for each other. Reach out. We'll get through this. We will, I know it. We'll be okay. We are at a crossroads, and we have to do whatever we can to make the world better. That's how I feel about it." He pauses to catch his breath. "I feel very, *very* strongly about it."

In light of all that's happened, it might seem trivial to plug his new movie or recount his life while so many thousands have lost theirs. Cruise has considered this: "But that's what [the terrorists] want," he says, "Basically they want to put a society into apathy. We can't let that happen." **BY SHERYL BERK**

skivvies and Ray Ban sunglasses—that he finally distinguished himself from The Brat Pack.

“Everyone was talking about him,” recalls Crowe. “He was a rocket ship before anyone knew his name.” The movie also changed his life on a personal level: Cruise and costar Rebecca DeMornay—his first serious girlfriend—became a couple for the next three years.

He wasn't ready, however, to tie the knot until meeting Mimi Rogers (who reportedly introduced him to the Church of Scientology, of which he's still a member), an actress six years his senior. They married on May 9, 1987. By this time, Cruise was honing his talent for playing cocky young go-getters (the daredevil pilot in 1986's *Top Gun*; the womanizing bartender in 1988's *Cocktail*; the selfish brother of Dustin Hoffman's autistic character in 1988's *Rain Man*). To prove he could do much more than swagger and flash a devilish smile, he signed on to play paralyzed Vietnam War vet Ron Kovic in

## The Real Heroes

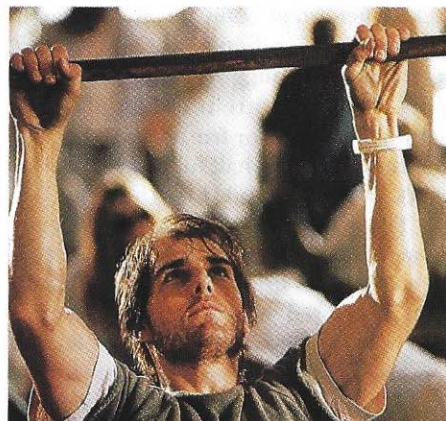
Cruise says he was “awestruck” by the courage and compassion of the men and women eulogized in *America: A Tribute to Heroes*, the September telethon that has raised \$150 million to date for World Trade Center relief organizations. He asked to be part of it along with Al Pacino, Jim Carrey, Julia Roberts, Tom Hanks, and numerous others. “It was incredible,” Cruise recalls. “It was all of us just getting together and wanting to help, wanting to do something in some way, to articulate and to do justice to people's lives. It was very powerful being there.”

Cruise spoke during the telethon about Rev. Mychal Judge—a.k.a. Father Mike—the 68-year-old charismatic chaplain of the New York Fire Department. On the morning of September 11, as soon as he heard that a plane had crashed into the World Trade Center, Father Mike raced to the scene to be with “his boys.” He was leaning over a dying fireman, administering the last rites, when he was struck by falling debris and killed. Other firemen found the priest and carried his body to the nearby St. Peter's Church and laid him on the altar.

To pay respect to Father Mike—and the hundreds of other firefighters killed in the WTC terrorist attacks—you can send donations to: **The Uniformed Firefighter's Association Widows' and Children's Fund**, 204 East 23rd Street, New York, NY 10010 or **New York Firefighters 9-11 Disaster Relief Fund**, c/o IAFF, 1750 New York Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20006.



With Rebecca DeMornay, his *Risky Business* partner—and future “serious” girlfriend



Playing paralyzed Vietnam War vet Ron Kovic in *Born on the Fourth of July* earned him an Oscar nod



As the blood-thirsty Lestat in 1994's *Interview with the Vampire*, from Anne Rice's bestseller



In 1993's *The Firm*, Cruise was a young legal eagle on the run from corrupt colleagues



Road trip: Driving cross-country (with Dustin Hoffman) in *Rain Man*

“I've been telling people ‘random acts of kindness.’ That's what's important. Be there for each other. We're at a crossroads, and we have to do whatever we can to make the world better.”

## Toms Terrific

Somehow, a megastar called “Thomas Cruise” doesn’t have quite the same down-to-earth appeal as one named simply “Tom.” Here are several other famous Toms, from real life or literature:

**TOM BOSLEY:** He has a Tony Award for his role in the Broadway musical *Fiorello!*, but to most people he’s forever “Mr. C.”—the amiable Howard Cunningham on TV’s 10-year run of *Happy Days*.

**TOM BROKAW:** The anchorman the nation watches most for network evening news, he’s also the bestselling author of *The Greatest Generation*, his tribute to the men and women who fought in World War II and built modern America.

**TOM JONES:** After four decades in the spotlight, the Welsh pop singer is still hip-swiveling before his loyal audiences. For them and him, warbling “What’s New Pussycat?” will never get old.

**TOM HANKS:** Along with Cruise, Hanks is Hollywood’s other “major Tom.” The recipient of two back-to-back Oscars for Best Actor, he’s also worn the hats of director, producer, and writer for movies and TV.

**TOM KITTEN:** Beatrix Potter’s classic tales of this lovable feline troublemaker continue to charm each new generation of toddlers, and their parents too.

**TOM SAWYER:** Mark Twain’s beloved novel about a young orphan boy’s adventures in the 1830s was based partly on his own childhood on the Mississippi River. The lessons Tom learns growing up still impress young readers today.

**TOM SELLECK:** He’s made plenty of films, but he’s forever our favorite as the Ferrari-driving, loud-Hawaiian-shirt-wearing private detective of the ‘80s TV series *Magnam, P.I.*

1989’s *Born on the Fourth of July*. His passionate performance netted him his first Oscar nomination for Best Actor and the admiration of his peers.

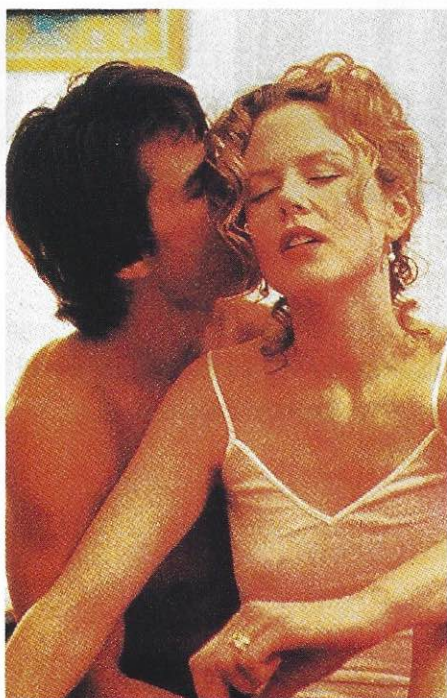
“I’m not sure he knows that he’s *that* good,” Crowe says. “I think he *hopes* that he’s that good, but doesn’t let himself go there. He loves movies; he sees everything. He’ll go to the [multiplex] and sit in the back and start talking to the screen and laughing out loud. He’s his own audience, the guy in the seat with the popcorn. He’ll read a script and think, ‘I want to see this!’ That’s the reason people feel so connected to him. He takes them on an emotional ride along with him.”



Cruise and Kidman teamed up to play Irish immigrants in 1992’s *Far and Away*



As the acrobatic Ethan Hunt in 1996’s *Mission: Impossible*



*Eyes Wide Shut* (starring the Cruises) was Stanley Kubrick’s last film. It explored sexual fantasies

In his 20-year career, Cruise has had surprisingly few flops (even the generally poorly-received *Interview With the Vampire* was a blockbuster). His biggest pictures—such as the two *Mission: Impossible* movies—each grossed nearly half a billion dollars worldwide. With that kind of bankability, Cruise can pick and choose whatever projects he wants, be it an intriguing character study like *Magnolia* or a huge Spielberg sci-fi thriller like the upcoming *Minority Report* (for which he was reportedly paid \$25 million to star).

Some roles have affected him more than others. *Jerry Maguire* marked his second Oscar nod and his first time working with Crowe. Though on the surface it’s the tale of a slick sports agent, “it was really a love story told from a male perspective,” he explained in 1996 when the film was released. “What I like about the guy is he wonders, ‘Where am I?’ And we all do that. That’s part of being human.”

The 1990 racing adventure *Days of Thunder* was also memorable, not only because

(Continued on page 105)

her hometown of Louisville, Kentucky. His estranged father didn't pay child support, and his mother juggled three jobs to support them. Despite the struggles, she showed little fear or frustration. "For her, the cup was always half full," Cruise has remarked, "Always. And I loved her for it."

"The greatest compliment you can give Tom is to say he's his mother's son," adds Crowe. "She's this beautiful, exquisitely well-mannered person, and as a result of that influence, Tom's unfailingly polite."

Mary Lee remarried when Tom turned 16, and the family finally settled in Glen Ridge, New Jersey. This would be the third high school Cruise would attend—including a brief study in a Franciscan seminary (he realized he liked girls too much to become a priest). While recovering from a knee injury, his choir teacher suggested he take his mind off sports by auditioning for the school musical. Cruise tried out for—and won—the lead role of Nathan Detroit in *Guys and Dolls*. And on opening night, taking his bows to thunderous applause, he found his calling.

To be an actor he of course needed to be at the center of it all—and that meant New

York City. Cruise dropped his last name, moved in with a friend, and waited tables between auditions, giving himself a 10-year deadline to make it in show biz. Luckily, he didn't have to wait that long: Within a few months, he appeared in a minor role in the movie *Endless Love* with Brooke Shields. That led to *Taps* opposite Sean Penn (he played a feverishly fanatic cadet), and a silly teen sex romp with Shelley Long called *Losin' It*. Critics had high hopes for him after *Taps*, and *Losin' It* was a disappointment. Still, it taught him a valuable lesson: He would have to be more discriminating when it came to his career choices. He signed on for his next film, *The Outsiders*, in 1983, accepting a minor part and low pay for the chance to work under director Francis Ford Coppola.

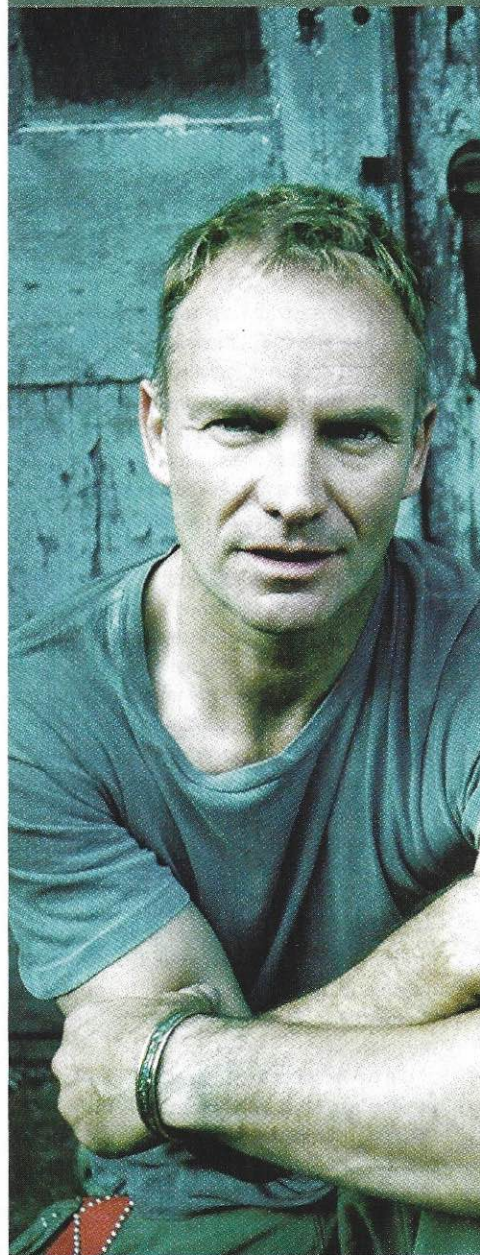
In the movie—which featured an ensemble cast of young actors including Matt Dillon, Emilio Estevez, Rob Lowe, Patrick Swayze, C. Thomas Howell, and Ralph Macchio—Cruise was little more than a handsome kid in the crowd. It wasn't until his next film, *Risky Business*—in particular, a scene in which his character, Joel Goodson, dances around the living room in his

# sting

...all this time

The new album is now in stores. Recorded live in Italy, it features reinvented Sting and Police classics, including a stunning new version of "Fragile".

A three hour TV special exploring the genesis, development and realization of this project - including the actual recording of this live CD will premiere on A&E on Nov. 24 and will air again on Dec. 16. The documentary and performance will be available on DVD in December.



Cruise & Cruz: their onscreen chemistry in *Vanilla Sky* evolved into an offscreen romance



## Celebrity Dossier

**NAME:** Thomas Cruise Mapother IV

**DATE OF BIRTH:** July 3, 1962

**PLACE OF BIRTH:** Syracuse, New York

**PARENTS:** Mary Lee Mapother, a teacher, and Thomas Cruise Mapother III, an electrical engineer who died in 1984

**SIBLINGS:** Three sisters: Marian, Lee Anne, and Cass

**EDUCATION:** Glen Ridge High School, Glen Ridge, New Jersey

**MARRIAGE:** Divorced from actresses Mimi Rogers and Nicole Kidman

**CHILDREN:** A son and daughter with Kidman

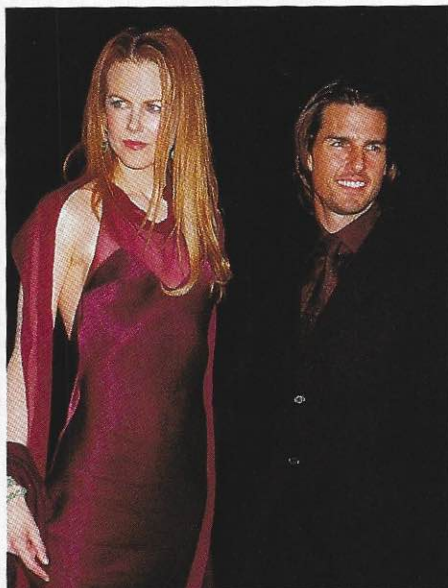
**FYI:** Those who have worked with Cruise are in awe of his endless energy. *Vanilla Sky* director Cameron Crowe recalls, "I wasn't completely satisfied with one scene we'd shot, so I said, 'Tom, you think you've got one more take in you?' He just grinned and said, 'I've got about a hundred more takes in me. How many you got in you?'"

He, for one, won't let it happen—which comes as no surprise. Strength and steely determination are what we've come to expect from a man who transformed himself from teen heartthrob into Hollywood power player. At 39, Cruise is not just A List, he's A+ List, "the definition of what it is to be a movie star," says Cameron Crowe, his director on *Jerry Maguire* and *Vanilla Sky*.

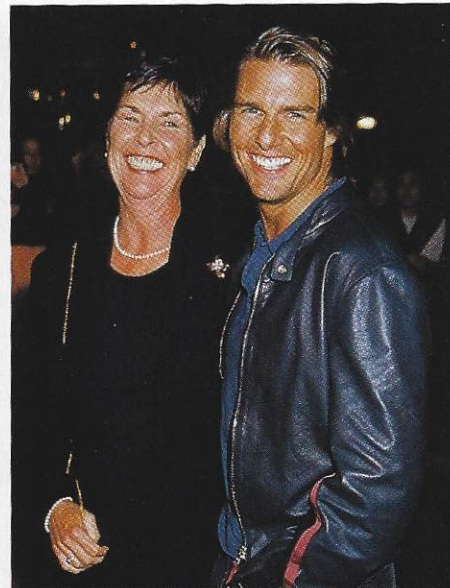
Cruise prefers to think of himself as just a regular guy who got lucky: "I feel very fortunate for my life, to be able to do what I love and love what I do. It's been a great journey for me, and I never take it for granted. Not for one minute do I take any of it for granted."

**T**homas Cruise Mapother IV was born on July 3, 1962, in Syracuse, New York, the only son of Thomas III, an electrical engineer, and Mary Lee, a teacher. His father moved their family (which included two older sisters and one younger one) wherever and whenever job opportunities beckoned (including Missouri, New Jersey, and New York). Academics were not Cruise's forte: Not only was he perpetually "the new kid on the block," but he had undiagnosed dyslexia, and was placed in remedial reading classes that further alienated him from his peers. He only seemed to find acceptance playing sports—football, basketball, lacrosse, tennis, baseball, and wrestling.

When he was 11, his parents divorced, and Mary Lee moved her children back to



Until recently, Cruise and Kidman appeared to be Hollywood's happiest couple. They met while filming 1990's *Days of Thunder*



"The greatest compliment you can give Tom is to say he's his mother's son," says Cameron Crowe. Here, with mom Mary Lee, in 1999



Fans feel he's the quintessential "movie star," but Cruise says he's just a guy who got lucky



Cruise and dozens of stars (including Penélope Cruz, right) worked the phones during the *America: A Tribute to Heroes* telethon after the World Trade Center attack

The way Crowe describes it, Cruise plays a young publishing magnate who goes through life without giving a thought to his responsibilities or the consequences of his actions. He is torn between two women, and is later hideously disfigured in a car accident. As a result, his life changes dramatically—in ways he never could have predicted. “My character is an American male who on the surface has it all,” adds Cruise. “But he has to walk the walk that we all walk. Some people don’t even realize the things they do that affect them down the road. And that’s how they put themselves into a prison, into a cell.”

If the idea of seeing Cruise and Cruz steam up the screen draws audiences into theaters, so be it. Cruise is savvy enough to know that sex sells (Cameron Diaz plays his other love interest in the film). But he hopes that people leave with something much more meaningful...and productive.

“Cameron Crowe’s [movies] believe in the goodness of people,” he says. “It’s hard not to be inspired by that.” ●

**SHERYL BERK IS SENIOR ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR OF THIS MAGAZINE.**

**Interiors guide from page 103**

**FOOD GUIDE:** Ofnah glass bowl, tea candle holders,

Massini tray, Guido nest bowl, all from LS Collection, 212-334-1194. Glass carafe and glasses (shown in dessert inset), both from Room, 212-226-1045. **INTERIORS GUIDE:** Leather sofa and chair, both from ABC Carpet & Home, 212-473-3000. LSA champagne flutes from LS Collection, 212-334-1194. Sterling silver noisemaker and party horn, both from Tiffany & Co., 212-755-8000.

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**Answers to puzzle from page 104**

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