

ESCAPE!

los angeles

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WHY VON DUTCH IS ROLLING IN HIS GRAVE

BY RJ SMITH

BUZZ

▶▶ gram, and soon he was designing sets. Then he was offered the lead in a play about a working-class kid who holds two teachers hostage.

"The process of getting into that character just opened up for me what I wanted to do for the rest of my life," he says. "It was an epiphany, really. The physical freedom—the chance to be liberated by playing other people—really appealed to me. Then it became about trying to understand humanity through acting."

Years later, Serkis was preparing to play Bill Sykes in a British TV version of *Oliver Twist* when he auditioned for the role of Gollum, which initially was expected to take only three weeks. But once he met Jackson and his collaborator, Fran Walsh, they agreed the part was more complex. "I got to humanize a fearful, misunderstood creature that you would think had no humanity whatsoever," he says. "I've been asked, 'Won't you be pleased to get back to proper, normal acting?' I've said, 'No, there is no more pure acting.' I could do Gollum for you now and you would get the same from it as you did on the screen. Because it's about pure physical energy."

"Daddy! Sonny yells. "Come down! I want to go to the Spider-Man show!" Serkis looks sheepish. He's promised his kids a trip to Universal Studios Hollywood. He's been to Los Angeles before, most notably to the 2003 Academy Awards, where he made

BUZZCUTS

A LITTLE OFF THE TOP—AND BOTTOM—FOR A BETTER MAY

Is this a form of self-realization fellowship? **ROBERT DOWNEY JR.** had a **TATTOO OF HIMSELF** needled into his left biceps at the Shamrock Social Club in West Hollywood.



When your team's only certifiable star is a relief pitcher—Eric Gagne—what do you do for **PROMOTIONAL GIVEAWAYS**? This season the **DODGERS** are rocking the classics with a Tommy Lasorda commemorative coin, a Jackie Robinson children's book, and a Fernando Talling Mini Keychain. Next season's hot giveaway? The Leo Durocher Bobblehead.



Lord of the Rings actor **JOHN RHYSDAVIES** joins fellow sci-fi/fantasy thespian **ROBERT PICARDO**, who played the Doctor on *Star Trek: Voyager*, as the newest member of the advisory council for the **PLANETARY SOCIETY** in Pasadena. "The organization just looks for people with a strong interest in space and planetary discovery," says Susan Lendroth, manager of events and communications. Calling Anne Heche...

We are sad to report that **AQUARIUM STOCK CO.** is now sleeping with the fishes. The store on Beverly Boulevard, recent winner of this magazine's "Best of L.A." award for the best goldfish supply in town, lost its lease and closed shop after more than 50 years in business.



Instant collectible of the month: Those custom-made **DANIEL MARSHALL CIGARS**, which are rolled in Tustin and cost up to \$200 a box, that **GOVERNOR ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER** keeps on hand to give to lawmakers. Schwarzenegger spokesperson Terri Carbaugh says, "It's the 'If you're gonna eat candy, bring enough for everyone' idea."

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Garner's boss—in the romantic comedy *13 Going on 30*. Does he still slip into Gollum's skin sometimes? "Oh, yeah," he says, grinning at his kids. "When they don't go to bed on time." He raises his eyebrows and contorts his face. "It doesn't work," he admits, "as much as it used to." **LA**

Dolly Parton's amusement park, Dollywood—not in its original intended location, the **HOLLYWOOD & HIGHLAND** complex. Who knew the Smoky Mountains held more appeal than the heart of Hollywood?



ROY DISNEY's office was located under that replica of Mickey's **MAGICIAN'S HAT** from *Fantasia* at the studio's **BURBANK** animation building. So now that Walt's nephew has left Disney, who gets dibs on his cigs? An assistant for Roy Disney says she's not sure, "although we're hoping he'll be able to move back in soon."

FROM (TOP) AARON DREWE/REX USA; (MIDDLE) JEFFREY MAYER/REX USA; (BOTTOM) PHOTOS: MARY ELLEN HENNING; GARY WATSON FOR THE WALL GROUP CO.