



PATRIOT GAMES

**HARRISON
FORD
-NO STRANGER
TO DANGER**

highly talented people involved."

A major difference between *Red October* and *Patriot Games* is that Jack Ryan the hunter is now the hunted. The plot jumps nimbly from yesterday's bogeyman (the Soviet Union) to today's — international terrorism. And author Clancy deserves credit for being one of the few Cold Warriors who's found a way to stay relevant in the new world order.

The film opens with Ryan thwarting the kidnapping of a member of the British Royal Family by a radical terrorist group. Good for the Royal Family, but bad for Jack, who becomes the target of an enraged and vengeful bunch of murderous boyos (among them Patrick Bergin, who earned his villain's stripes playing Julia Roberts's brutalizing husband in *Sleeping With the Enemy*).

It's not just Jack who's placed in danger, however, but also his family in *Patriot Games*. Anne Archer (*Fatal Attraction*) and Thora Birch (*Paradise, All I Want for Christmas*) costar as Ryan's terrorized wife and daughter.

It helps that Ford is a fan of Clancy's, but since he's not one to rely only on a script for background, Ford would feel obliged to read his books in any case. "It would be like trying to play Jesus without reading the Bible," he says.

This film work is serious business to Ford, after all. "I want the opportunity to collaborate and participate," he says of the transfer of Clancy's books to the screen. "When there are things you can sway, I think it's appropriate and necessary. It's me on that screen."

Patriot Games opens in theatres across Canada this summer.

— Jim Slotek



FIFTEEN

When moviegoers last saw CIA analyst Jack Ryan, he'd written perhaps the last act of the Cold War, negotiating the defection of a Soviet nuclear submarine crew virtually by mental telepathy. That was *The Hunt for Red October*.

The Soviet threat no longer exists, but Jack Ryan, techno-author Tom Clancy's popular hero, is back on the big screen in *Patriot*

Games, based on another of Clancy's best-selling novels.

With billions of dollars in box office, most of it in the action-adventure genre, Harrison Ford (*Star Wars*, *Indiana Jones*) seems a natural to play the canny CIA operative. Other people must think so too, since Ford has signed on to portray the character through at least three movies (the others being adapted from two other Clancy million-sellers, *Clear and Present Danger* and *The Sum of All Fears*).

The combination of superstar Ford and an exciting adventure story would seem to ensure box-office magic, but the characteristically humble actor is more cautious. When asked about his ability to "make" a film, Ford told *Inside Hollywood* magazine, "There are a lot of bankable actors around. It's the luck of the draw that some of the films I've made were as successful as they were. I'm not so modest that I don't think I had some part to play in their success, but there were certainly many other