

# PARAMOUNT

## PHILIPS SIGNS MOVIE DEAL WITH PARAMOUNT

**A** groundbreaking deal has been signed between Paramount Pictures and Philips Interactive Media in the US and Europe to release 50 films, including existing and new titles, on CDi.

Top Gun, The Hunt for Red October, Naked Gun 2 1/2 and Patriot Games will be among the first CDi films available in the UK this autumn. They will retail at £15.99.

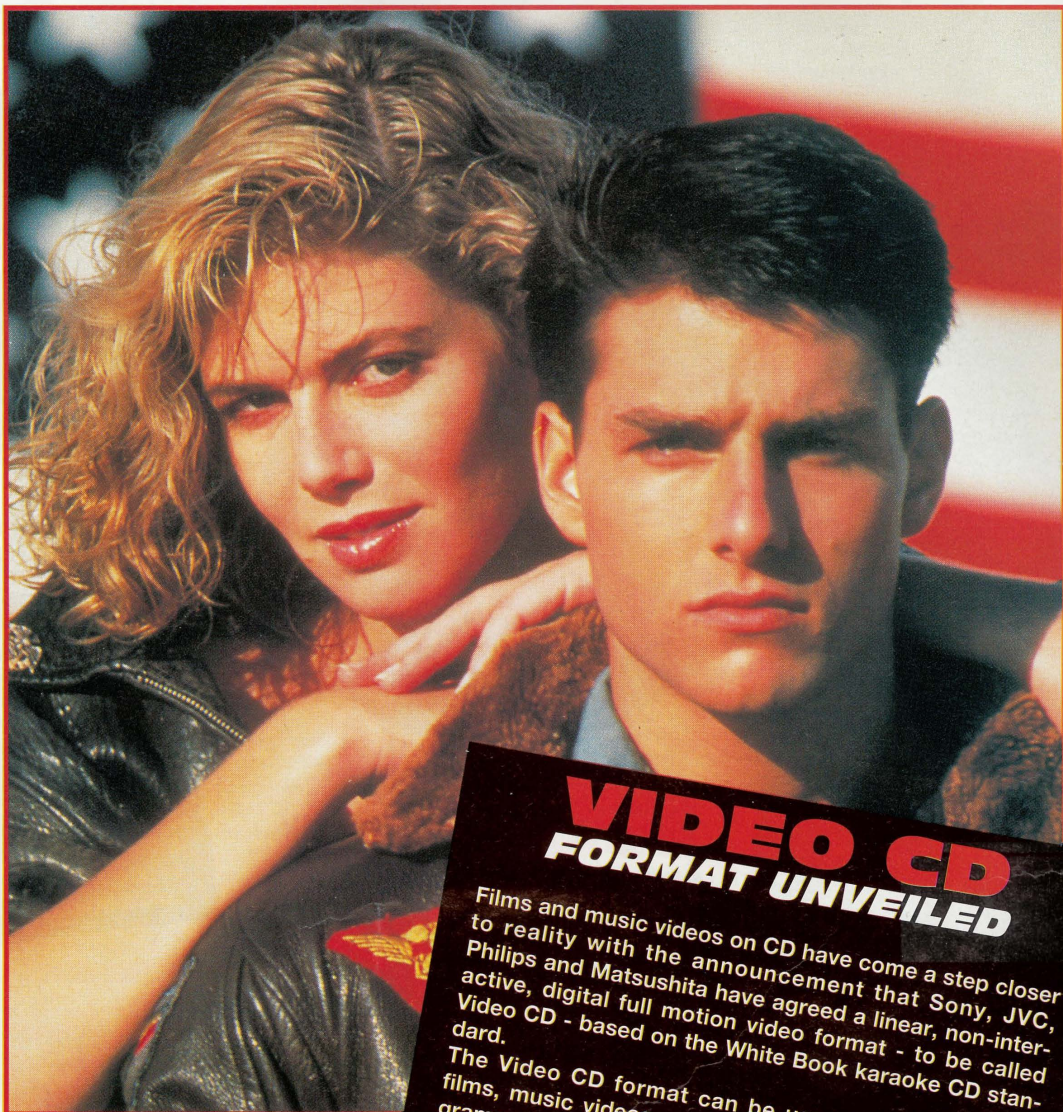
Dr Jean-Pierre Isbouts, managing director of Philips Interactive Media Europe (PIME), says: "We are also in discussion with a number of other studios."

Paramount and Philips are also discussing the possibility of developing interactive CDi titles. One of these could be based on the popular Star Trek series.

"We are delighted to be the first major studio to be introducing our feature films on the CDi format," says Eric Doctorow, executive vice president, Paramount Home Video.

PIMA president Bernie Lusk adds: "Putting movies on disc in the CDi format is a quantum leap in electronic publishing, and we are pleased to be the first to introduce it to the world."

CDi films will play on any CDi machine which has the new Digital Video cartridge fitted. But one disc can still only carry 74 minutes of video, so most films will have to be played on two discs. Philips is hoping to bring a CDi disc changer to market next year so discs can be played seamlessly.



### VIDEO CD FORMAT UNVEILED

Films and music videos on CD have come a step closer to reality with the announcement that Sony, JVC, Philips and Matsushita have agreed a linear, non-interactive, digital full motion video format - to be called Video CD - based on the White Book karaoke CD standard.

The Video CD format can be used by publishers of films, music videos and educational and training programmes.

Video CDs can be played back on a variety of platforms: CDi players with a Digital Video cartridge; computers with CD-ROM drives and MPEG decoders; Video CD players.

The agreement of a Video CD standard should broaden the market for linear films and videos on CD, according to John Hawkins, director and general manager of Philips Interactive Media Systems.

"Philips expects that the Video CD format will have the same impact on the video industry as the compact disc had on the music industry ten years ago."

The White Book standard was first published by JVC and Philips in March 1993 and is based on MPEG 1 digital full motion video. It is already successfully established in the professional karaoke market.

The announcement of the Video CD standard is likely to lead to the development of dedicated Video CD players. These will be able to play back linear, non-interactive films or videos on CD through a TV screen.

### PHIL COLLINS Stars in first CDi film

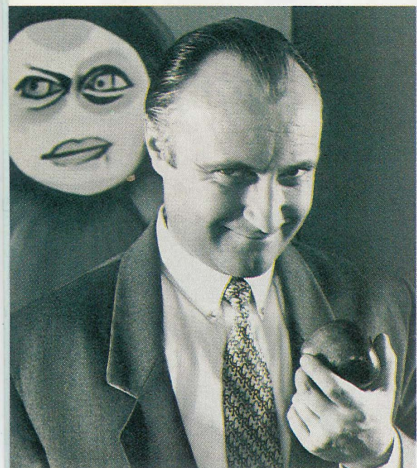
**P**hil Collins will make his CDi debut this autumn when his film *Frauds* is released simultaneously on video and CDi in certain

parts of Europe. This follows a deal between Philips Interactive Media Europe and J&M Entertainment.

The CDi version is likely to be launched first in Germany and then certain other European countries. But the CDi distribution agreement does not yet cover the UK and US.

First Independent Films which has the UK video distribution rights for *Frauds*, says it has no plans as yet to release the film on CDi, "but it may come out in the future", says a spokeswoman. "A deal hasn't yet been negotiated with Philips."

*Frauds* is a surreal black comedy which tells the story of an insurance investigation that spins out of control.



# EXCELLENT!

## Wayne's World debuts on Digital Video

**T**he film that gave the world "Excellent!" and "Not!" will shortly be available on CDi. Wayne's World will be out in November. Based on characters created for Saturday Night Live (home of the Blues Brothers, Chevy Chase and just about every American comedian of recent years), Wayne's World became a huge success on both sides of the Atlantic.

It's easy to see why. The goofy brand of schoolboy humour is hard to resist and the vocabulary is, well, EXCELLENT!

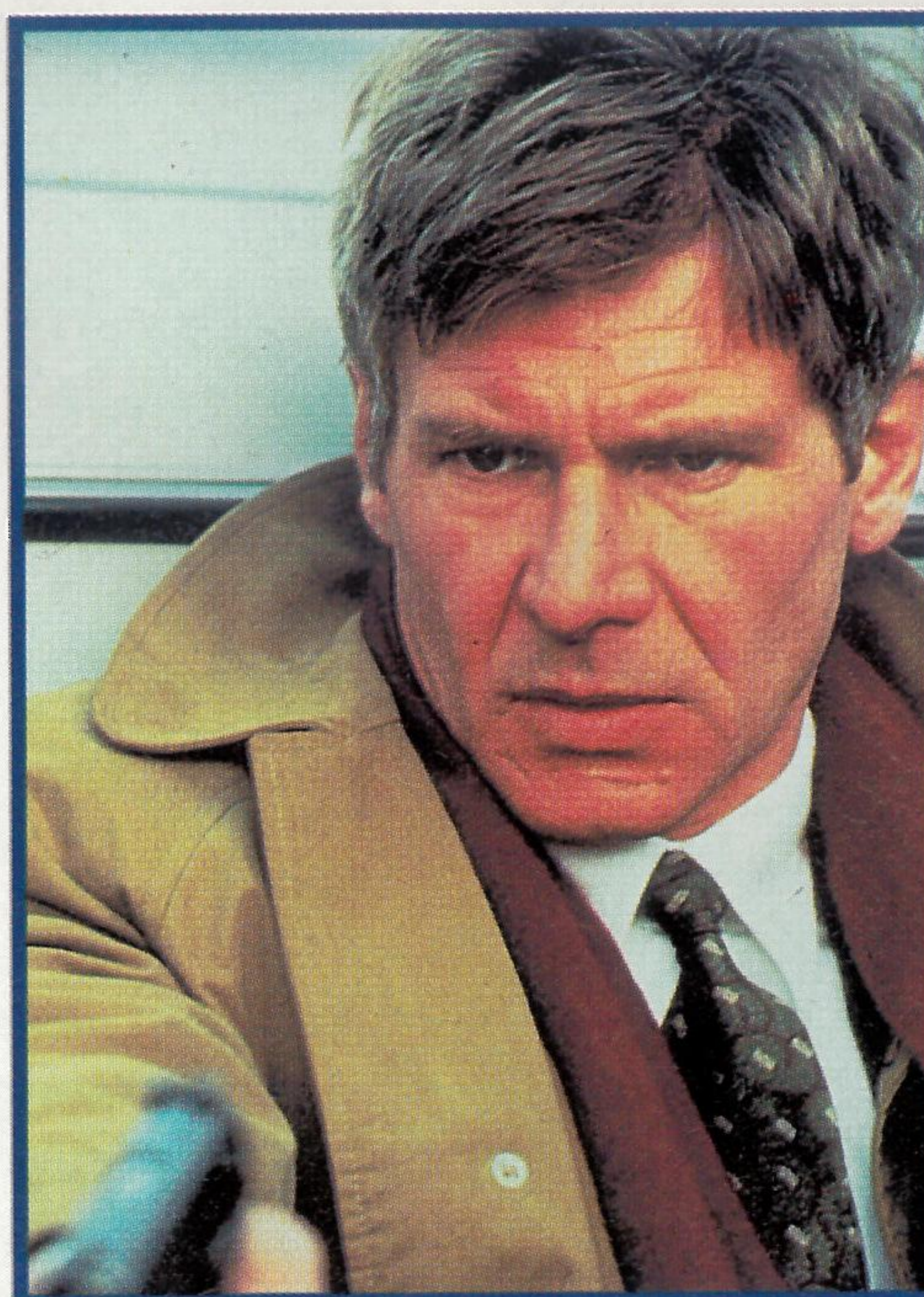
For those that missed it first time round, the film is about a (very) small (very) local television station run from a basement by two metalhead no-hopers Wayne and Garth. The quality of the show is rough, to say the least, but that's really their appeal. They're just two lads doing what they know best - goofing around and discussing "babes".

Everything is going just fine until one day along comes a network television producer with offers of fame and LOTS of money. Does he have the boys' best interests at heart? What do you think?

However, it's not the plot that matters. Wayne's World appeals because it's so wonderfully dumb. The two lead players ham it up in a way not seen since the totally excellent Bill and Ted, and director Penelope Spheeris keeps it all moving at a suitably brisk pace.

To return to babes ("schwing!"), romantic interest is provided by Tia Carrere ("double schwing!") who had a hit with the cover of The Sweet's Ballroom Blitz seen here. But the musical and comic highlight of the film has to be a mimed rendition of Queen's Bohemian Rhapsody. All those guilty of similar behaviour say "aye".

Wayne's World is a valid and essential contribution to modern culture. NOT!



## PATRIOT GAMES

**H**arrison Ford takes over as Jack Ryan to tackle Sean Bean and the IRA in this Tom Clancy tale of revenge and terrorism. There are more plot holes than the proverbial swiss cheese and a sense of geography that would shame a five year old, but it's still a lot of fun and gives a fascinating insight into the workings of modern intelligence agencies. A Bond for the Nineties if you like (Ford signed a deal for five films).

Directed by Philip Noyce, responsible for the excellent Dead Calm and the less than good Sliver, this one's somewhere in between.

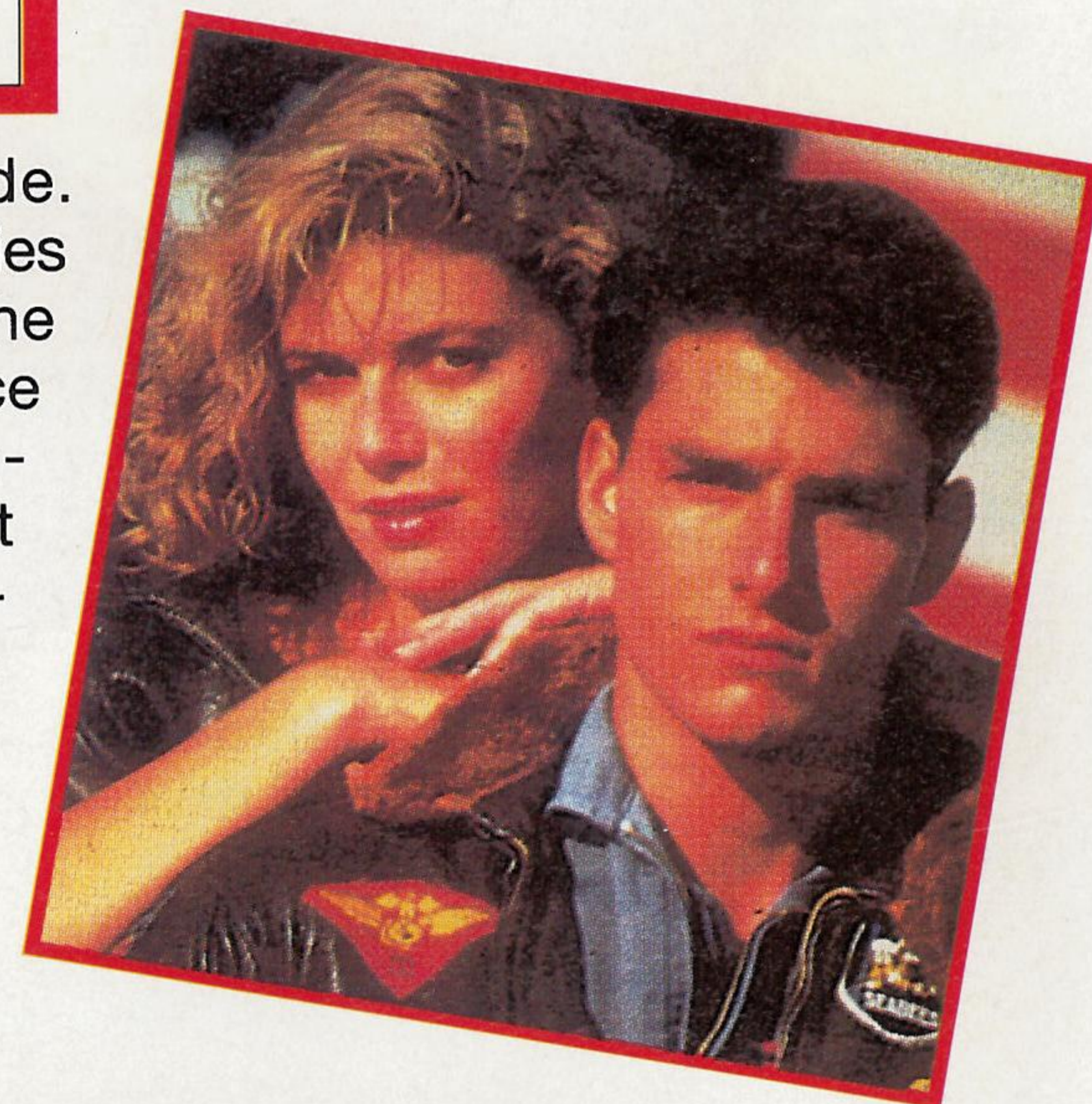
## NAKED GUN 2 1/2

"Frank Drebin is back, just accept it" ran the copy line. Love him or loathe him, in my experience you can't help but laugh at him. The movies are much better than the Police Squad television series on which they're based, the gags coming so thick and fast it doesn't matter if some of them miss. This time Drebin goes up against evil energy tycoons determined to stop America adopting a new energy policy. Not quite as good as the original, but then that was utterly wonderful. The Zucker clan ( Airplane, Hot Shots etc ) strike gold again.



## TOP GUN

Tom Cruise, jet fighters and attitude. Possibly one of the most exciting movies ever, certainly one of the loudest. The aerial sequences are amazing, the pace relentless and the soundtrack monstrous. Okay, the plot looks like it came off the back of a cigarette packet, but who cares. Dreadful and wonderful at the same time, with that Cruise smile shining through. Plug it through your hi-fi for maximum impact from the digital audio of CDi. And remember, play it LOUD!



## THE HUNT FOR RED OCTOBER

**S**ean Connery really steals the show with a very strange accent but bags of class as a Russian naval officer defecting to the West with the latest Soviet submarine. Or is he...?

Jack Ryan ( the excellent Alec Baldwin) has to find out. This was a huge hit and features breath-taking underwater footage.

The Oscar winning sound effects will make the most of the digital sound of CDi.

