

THE THREE MUSKETEERS

En garde! The musketeers ride again

RESIDENT EVIL SUPREMO

Paul W.S. Anderson switches from sci-fi to historical romance in his latest 3D endeavour: an adaptation of Alexandre Dumas's classic novel, *The Three Musketeers*. "There is a danger it could be old-fashioned, so we have introduced elements to give it a more modern feel," says producer Jeremy Bolt. We'll reserve judgment for now, but this first shot is reassuringly old-fashioned. Meet the team...

> *The Three Musketeers* is out on October 13.

ATHOS

Played by Matthew Macfadyen, Athos is the eldest Musketeer and harbours a mysterious past, linking him to the story's villainess, M'lady De Winter (Milla Jovovich). "He has been let down dreadfully by this lady who he loved and who he thought loved him, and was double-crossed quite spectacularly," says Macfadyen. "Athos has fallen out of love with everything, including being a Musketeer, when we first meet him."

D'ARTAGNAN

Logan Lerman, fresh from his Olympian feats in the Percy Jackson film, steps into D'Artagnan's sturdy boots. As in the Dumas novel, Lerman's fellow is a hot-headed Gascon who yearns for a place in the Musketeers. "He is a cocky young swordsman," the actor confirms, "and is just a ball of nervous energy. It really comes off in his fighting because he is very wild. Which makes for fun fight sequences..."

ARAMIS

Tamara Drewe star Luke Evans takes on the role of the studious swashbuckler Aramis, a man who Dumas casts as besotted by intrigue and religious zeal. "He definitely has those qualities: the studious one, the religious one," explains the Welsh actor, "the one who prays for his victims after he has slain them!" To ram home this point: "There's the shape of a cross in the handle of Aramis's dagger and sword."

PORTHOS

Rome's Ray Stevenson will crash onto the screen as the hard-living boozier and carouser, Porthos. While his comrades opt for finesse and occasional frippery, "We've gone for a crew-cut on Porthos," smiles Stevenson. "The others have these slim rapiers, but I've managed to snag this enormous naval broadsword, which can chop down trees. I think he's had this nautical, naughty past, and when he kicks off, you know about it."



THE DINNER PARTY

You're invited – at your own risk

CANBERRA. CAPITAL OF

a nation. Home to roundabouts, X-rated liberties, and the dining table of homicidal uni student Anu Singh who, in 1997, drugged her boyfriend Joe Cinque with Rohypnol and watched him die after she gave him a lethal hit of heroin. She was convicted of manslaughter.



Days earlier, Singh had hosted dinner parties at which she told friends of her plan to kill herself and Cinque.

More than a decade later, and producer Brendan Sloane (above) is beaming, because *The Dinner Party* – based loosely on Singh's crime – played to packed houses last month in its hometown. Sloane and writer-director Scott Murden proudly spruik *The Dinner Party* as the first full-length feature straight outta Canberra. They also want you to realise their kitchen-sink chiller (about friends and strangers sharing a meal with a suicidal chick, who may or may not be arranging her boyfriend's last supper) isn't a horror outing.

"Audience members are surprised by how real the film feels and, ultimately, how our values and ethics can get mixed up in a situation like this," says Murden from his London home, where he is working on upcoming features. "For example, most people would support their best mate through thick and thin – but what if they wanted to die? It's something that we don't usually consider."

Another thing that's rarely considered is the idea of making a movie in Canberra. But contrary to popular belief about the trials of creating independent films, Murden is surprisingly buoyant about the experience of realising his low-budget debut.

"It was actually quite easy. We'd worked with a lot of people in the past and they were all ready to jump in and help."

> *The Dinner Party* is out now on DVD and is reviewed on page 113.