

Rufus Wainwright brings his rarefied pipes to music's most accessible genre

"I just wanted it to be something you could put on at a party that wouldn't clear the room," Rufus Wainwright says of the lush, hook-laden Out of the Game, his seventh studio album. "I've made a few of those. Not that they're bad records, but they kind of required your undivided attention. This one I wanted to be more inviting." To that end, the troubadour paired up with producer Mark Ronson, the pop wunderkind behind albums by Amy Winehouse, Lily Allen and Adele, and led an ensemble including soul outfit The Dap-Kings, Sean Lennon and Wilco's Nels Cline. whom Wainwright describes as "a real maestro—he was the big surprise for me." Out of the Game has hints of doo-wop, R&B and even classical. but Wainwright credits the music of the '70s as the record's key influence. So which artist from that era would he most like to work with? "If Stevie Wonder had continued doing what he was doing then for the rest of his career, he would be the one," he says. "But I'd probably have more luck hanging out with Stevie Nicks. She's more up my alley." OUT MAY 1

Wild Pitches

Two very unlikely movie adaptations hit the big screen May 18

BATTLESHIP

INSPIRATION: 45-year-old board game PLOT: International naval fleet at Pearl Harbor attempts to repel an armada of alien invaders STARS: Taylor Kitsch (fresh off John Carter, in which he played a Civil War veteran fighting aliens on Mars), Liam Neeson, Brooklyn Decker PREDECESSORS: Clue, Jumanii TWIST: Both sides of the story are shown, so we know where all the ships are **NEXT UP: Adaptations of** Monopoly, Ouija, Risk and Candy Land

WHAT TO EXPECT WHEN YOU'RE EXPECTING

INSPIRATION: Pregnancy guide first published in 1984 PLOT: Five couples of varying temperaments prepare to deliver or adopt babies STARS: Jennifer Lopez, Cameron Diaz, Matthew Morrison ("Glee"), Elizabeth Banks, Dennis Quaid, Chris Rock, Brooklyn Decker PREDECESSORS: He's Just Not That Into You, Think Like a Man TWIST: Chris Rock and Mr. Schuester appear in the same movie NEXT UP: Nothing yet-but we suggest an adaptation of Basic Ab Workout for Dummies, starring Gerard Butler and, of course, Brooklyn Decker

Maternal Wisdom With Mother's Day coming up on May Anna Quindlen,

Pulitzer-winning sage of midlife and motherhood and author of the brand-new memoir Lots of Candles, Plenty of Cake, for a few tips for moms on their big day:

>> "You might not eat until lunch. Breakfast in bed is going to have lots of weird bits, including eggshells, 13, we asked . . . and if the kids don't burn the bacon they'll take that themselves. So what? If you have: perfectly cooked eggs Benedict, you're probably in a hotel room."

>> "If you have more than one child and someone forgets Mother's Day, do nothing, Siblings handle this, as in: 'Dude, you forgot it was Mother's Day? Dude. Wow.' You can just smile beatifically."

>> "Grown children. are not quite as reverential about Mother's Day as small ones, but supermarket flowers are still flowers. and a phone call is always welcomeeven if the background noise suggests it's coming from Wingsand-Beer Night."

"Also, it is not cool: to tell grown children what you would like for Mother's Day: grandchildren. They're smart enough to know this. After all, you raised them."