

# TAKE 20

THIS MONTH'S FILM MOMENTS THAT MATTER [EDITED BY BETH WEBB]

## No. 1 Keeping cool in the face of danger

### Carnivores on frozen lakes? It's no bother for **JURASSIC WORLD DOMINION** star DeWanda Wise

WHEN YOU JOIN the cast of a movie with the word 'Jurassic' in the title, there are certain muscles you need to build up. Your legs, for running from things that are scaly and hungry. Your arms, for hoisting a flashlight or flare. And, of course, your jaw — for enunciating the lengthy, complex names of all the beasts trying to kill you.

"I can say *Quetzalcoatlus!*" laughs DeWanda Wise, who is joining the franchise with new instalment *Jurassic World Dominion*. "But my focus was more on the character, so I didn't think a lot about the dinosaurs. Between now and when the movie releases, I will probably refresh my eight-year-old memory."

In case you're wondering what a

Quetzalcoatlus is (let's not get into how to pronounce it), well, it's a humongous, long-necked flying dinosaur which likes nothing better than to grapple with planes in mid-air. In *Dominion*, Wise's pilot Kayla will have a close encounter with one. Then, at ground level, she and series stalwart Owen Grady (Chris Pratt) will face down another hitherto unseen predator, the red and feathery *Pyraptor*, on a frozen lake. In this trilogy-topper, all the toys are out of the box, rampaging around the planet. There will be sprinting, there will be screaming, and, in this scene at least, there will be sliding.

It marks the action-movie debut of Wise, who had a small role in last year's *The Harder They Fall* but is best known for TV series *She's*





*Gotta Have It.* She was thrown in at the deep end, being dispatched to shoot *Dominion*'s lake set-piece over her first two weeks. "It was kind of wild, being thrust into that," she says. "You know, this is Baby's First Blockbuster! I'd come home with my hamstrings really hard; there's nothing like sprinting for multiple takes across a very slippery terrain. But Pratt really knows his shit. He knows all the intense technical things you have to hit, in addition to the performance, to sell the terror. I was like, 'Teach me, master!'"

With hamstrings restored to standard elasticity, Wise entered a new phase of the shoot, less overwhelming but equally wild in its own way, as she hunkered down with her cast-mates at a London hotel during quarantine, making new friends and picking up new hobbies. "I've sung around the piano with Jeff Goldblum. I have so many bottles of Two Paddocks wine [from Sam Neill's vineyard]," she marvels. "There are cast members I don't share screen

time with at all, but who I had the opportunity to get to know. It was super-super-surreal." She also got to hang around prehistoric creatures in less adrenaline circumstances. Namely, a Pinewood soundstage decked up to look like a sprawling Maltese black-market dinosaur sale.

"There's nothing like being dropped into a space to go, like, 'Got it. I know how to walk now,'" she says. "This is Kayla's world. She's fresh out of the Air Force and her main thing is flying cargo: mostly dinosaur stuff, but it could be anything." There was plenty of "dinosaur stuff" on set, with the stage packed with animatronics, dinos of every conceivable size and shape: some dangerous, some cuddly. "If you are even a little bit of an animal lover, even a smidge, it's just remarkable," Wise remembers of the experience. And she had one favourite, in particular. "I was shown the *Lystrosaurus* early and named him Leonard.



Main: New dinosaur on the block: the Pyloraptor joins the herd of giant predators. Above: D'Wanda Wise as pilot Kayla.

I would like to take him home. It's honestly wildly overwhelming, how much affection you can feel for this thing that you know logically is not real."

Leonard? Yes, Leonard. Finally, a dinosaur name that's easy to say. **NICK DE SEMLYEN**

JURASSIC WORLD DOMINION IS IN CINEMAS FROM 10 JUNE