

LOOK OUT FOR ... 'DAY ZERO'

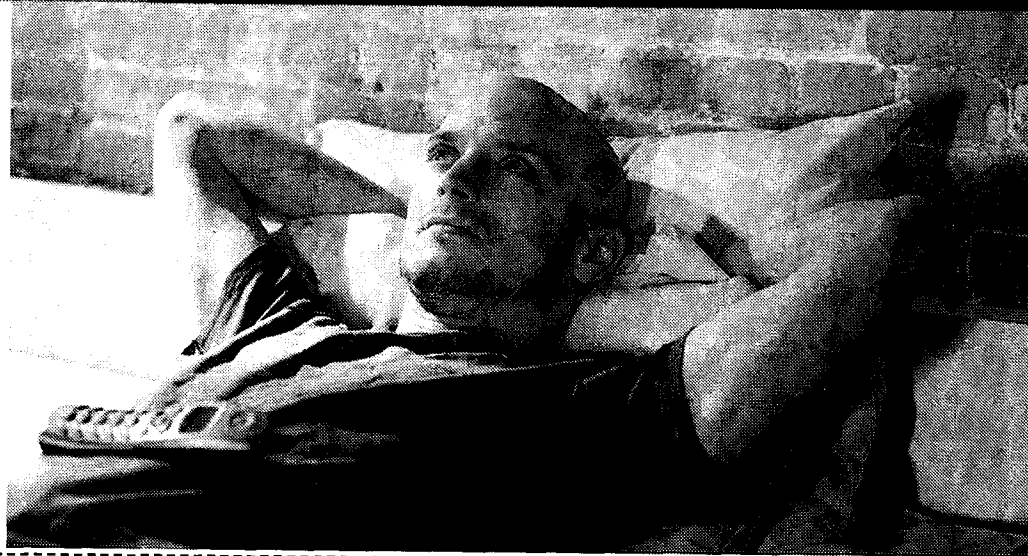
Elijah Wood is getting drafted ... again. In last year's multi-character drama "Bobby," he played a young man in 1968 called up to fight in Vietnam. And in the "Lord of the Rings" trilogy, Wood was the reluctant, hairy-footed center of the Fellowship formed to strike a blow against Sauron and save Middle Earth.

And now in "Day Zero," opening Jan. 18, Wood is called up to fight a new war. He's one of three friends who get the dreaded — some might say long-delayed — letter in the near future where conflicts in Iraq, Afghanistan and elsewhere have prompted a reinstatement of conscription. Chris Klein costars as

a young lawyer whose career is flourishing stateside and can't see any reason why he should have to ship out, and Jon Bernthal is a cabbie who believes it's their duty to go to combat for their country.

Wood plays a struggling novelist trying to finish his first book in 30 days, and is frightened to death both by the prospect of completing his opus and showing up for a military tour. With his pals, he shaves his head, gets a tattoo, has wild nights on the town and generally does everything he can think of to test himself and prepare for the ordeal. The last detail to tend to, naturally, will be surviving.

Michael Giltz



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