



**STARRY**  
*Birthday*  
Uma Thurman

April 29, 1970

Actress known for her performances in *Pulp Fiction* and *Kill Bill*. She took home a Golden Globe Award for Best Actress for her role in 2003's *Hysterical Blindness*.

## MIDDLE EAST MOVIE BUZZ

### Captain Abu Raed

“**Captain Abu Raed**” is a film of many firsts.

It was Jordan’s first official submission for a best foreign film Oscar — ever. Its producers say it’s the first independent film to emerge from the Middle Eastern country in five decades. The film made its writer and director, Amin Matalqa, the first American Film Institute Conservatory student to finish a feature film before graduation.

“Captain Abu Raed,” though, is more than just a piece of film history. The movie, which won the World Cinema Dramatic Competition at the Sundance Film Festival last year, is an intriguing glimpse at a little-known world and a moving testament to the potential that exists there as much as anywhere else — although even its inhabitants have trouble believing it.

Nadim Sawalha (“Syriana”) is the title character, although he’s not really a pilot. He’s mistaken for one by the neighbourhood children when he returns one day wearing a cap he found in the trash at work — he’s a janitor in Amman’s airport. He tries to come clean, but realizes these poverty-stricken children might need dreams more than they need the truth. He captivates them with tales of his travels, encouraging them to reach for the stars.

Two boys especially need Raed’s help. Tareq (Udey Al-Qiddissi) is a smart boy, but his father pulls him out of school to sell wafers on the street. Murad (Hussein Al-Sous) is the group’s sole skeptic; his abusive father has turned him into a young cynic who declares, “People like us don’t become pilots.”

They’re not the only ones struggling in society. Nour (Jordan television presenter Rana Sultan) is a real pilot. Beautiful and independent, she’s a modern woman with an old-fashioned father who would rather see her barefoot and pregnant than pursuing a career high up in the skies. (*washingtontimes.com*)



## Priyanka Chopra perfect choice for ‘Baywatch’

Los Angeles **Hollywood star** Dwayne Johnson has praised his co-star and Indian actress Priyanka Chopra and says she is the perfect choice for the forthcoming film “Baywatch”. Johnson on Thursday took to *Twitter* to post: “Hard to balance real malevolence (hostility) with charm and humour. Perfect choice for our ‘Baywatch’...Priyanka Chopra.”



Priyanka, who will be seen playing a negative character Victoria Leeds in the upcoming film, re-tweeted the Hollywood star’s compliment.

Internationally, the actress also featured in the American drama TV show “Quantico”.

“Baywatch” is an upcoming American action-comedy film directed by Seth Gordon, based on the television series of the same name. The film stars Dwayne Johnson and Zac Efron. (*IANS*)

## Orlando Bloom speaks up on terror threats

London

**A**ctor Orlando Bloom has spoken of how terror threats made him more concerned about being in public spaces with his six-year-old son.

The actor, 40, said recent global attacks, combined with his work on upcoming espionage thriller “Unlocked”, had heightened his nerves, reports *mirror.co.uk*.

He said: “Sometimes I will be in parks, or big theme parks, with (my son), suddenly I think, ‘Oh, this is a bit? this could be one of those weird places where something?’” (*IANS*)



Mike Peters of The Alarm performs at “Dare to be Different” Premiere during 2017 Tribeca Film Festival yesterday in New York City (AFP)