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## A SANE, STAUNCH VOICE: ELIZABETH MCGOVERN

It's been almost ten years since Elizabeth McGovern made her screen debut in *Ordinary People* and now, with three new films this season, she continues to do what she does best: play the "moral center"—a sane, staunch voice—in a film. In *Johnny Handsome*, chilling futuristic novel, McGovern's character plots to flee the ultra-right-wing society holding her captive as a "breeder." Though McGovern doesn't see *Handmaid* as a cautionary tale, she does think it will focus attention



she offers romantic redemption to hood Mickey Rourke. In the upcoming *A Shock to the System*, she falls for boss Michael Caine (with McGovern, above), an exec with, shall we say, killer ambition. "The story satirizes the inhumanity of the corporate world," says McGovern, twenty-eight. "I play the one person who is still vulnerable and alive, who hasn't become completely deadened by societal pressures." But that's nothing compared to the literally barren world she's up against in *A Handmaid's Tale*, due in December. In this adaptation of Margaret Atwood's

on feminist issues. "There are all these scenes where the women are sort of doing penance for their 'wrongs,' and I would think, 'Oh, that's the sort of voice I have inside my own head.' We've gone through different phases in the women's movement, but the hard thing to conquer is those voices that inhibit us. That's much harder territory."

## SELF REPORTS



### LAUGHING MATTERS

There's nothing like a little humor to help cope when life goes awry—which is the theory behind PBS's *Trying Times*, a series of wit-coms that kicks off its second season October 12. With some of Hollywood's brightest lights behind and in front of the cameras—among them, directors Christopher Guest and Buck Henry, actors Carrie Fisher, Geena Davis and Peter Riegert (above, in "The Hit List"), "These tilted, eccentric half hours," says producer Jon Denny, "prove that despair, hopelessness and utter woe can bring out the best in people."



### SOUND DESIGNER

3-D movies are long gone, but if Peter Myers has anything to say about it, they may be back in theaters before long. This time, however, moviegoers won't be treated to three-dimensional pictures but, instead, to three-dimensional sound. Employing a complex computer system that mimics the way human ears hear sounds and the brain processes them, Myers' computer technology is the first to create audio illusions. Myers, twenty-nine, was awarded a patent this year; and his company, PM Productions, of San Jose, California, is now in negotiations with movie and record companies. Though this is his first patent, Myers has been inventing and experimenting since he was a child. At sixteen, he was already working for NASA as one of its youngest federal contractors ever. "I just have a natural curiosity," Myers says. "As a kid, I used to take apart everything to see how things worked."

**ADDRESSING EATING DISORDERS** Every day, Caroline Adams Miller receives hundreds of confessions in the mail. And they all begin with a passionate plea: "Help me, I'm a bulimic. . . ." Victims of the eating disorder bulimia, which affects nearly ten million people nationwide (90 percent are women, predominantly ages eighteen to thirty-five), have learned about Miller through her recent book *My Name Is Caroline*, a frank chronicle of the seven years during which she incessantly binged on food and then purged it from her system. Miller, now recovered, and her husband, H. Haywood Miller III, plan to open ten residential clinics across the country to help bulimics rediscover healthy eating habits; the first,

## WHO'S NEWS

near their home in Middletown, Maryland, is scheduled to open this fall. Bulimia often starts with a diet and worsens as a dieter becomes discouraged with results, says Miller, twenty-eight. Miller's own recovery was boosted by the birth of her son. "Eating for two," she says, "taught me a lot about the importance of nutrition."



PHOTOGRAPHS: ABOVE RIGHT, DAN ESCOBAR; FAR LEFT, LYNN WARBERG-CORSAR; BELOW, TOM WOLFE