

"Winter's Bone' star had to skin a squirrel

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Dear Ken: Tell me what you can about actress Jennifer Lawrence, who plays Ree Dolly in the movie "Winter's Bone."

Lawrence, 20, was born in Louisville, Ky., and began her acting career at 14. By 17, she was playing the teenage daughter in the TBS sitcom, "The Bill Engvall Show." Her other TV credits include "Monk," "Medium" and "Cold Case." Her movies include "The Poker House" and "The Burning Plain." Later this year, she co-stars in "The Beaver" and "X-Men: First Class." For her role as a poor Ozarks teen searching for her missing, meth-making father in "Winter's Bone," she had to learn how to fight, chop wood and skin a squirrel. As for the latter, she said. "You could ask me about anything and compare it to cutting up a squirrel, and I would choose the other. . . . I know squirrels are like rats with bushy tails, but it's cute! It's an animal and I was, like, Ohhhhhhhhh."

Dear Ken: Whatever happened to the boy who played the son of Gregory Peck and Jane Wyman and adopted the fawn in the 1946 movie "The Yearling"?

That was Nashville's own Claude Jarman Jr. who played young Jody. Jarman, 76, made only 11 movies, but there were some great ones in the bunch, including "Intruder in the Dust," "Rio Grande" and "The Great Locomotive Chase." He left films behind in 1960 and made his last appearance in the TV miniseries "Centennial." The father of seven children served in the Navy, was director of the San Francisco Film Festival, worked with the Shaklee corporation and ran his own travel company. He continues to make his home in San Francisco.

Dear Ken: What has actor Cuba Gooding Jr. been doing lately? We loved him in "Jerry Maguire."

Gooding, 43, continues to ask movie producers his most favorite question: "Show me the

money!" as he works in film. His credits in recent years include "Pearl Harbor," "Snow Dogs," "Radio," "Daddy Day Camp," "American Gangster" and "Hardwire," and the TV movie, "Gifted Hands: The Ben Carson Story." He has three films due out this year: "Sacrifice," "The Hit List" and "Red Tails." The latter is the story of the Tuskegee Airmen.

Dear Ken: How old is Kitty Wells, the singer of "It Wasn't God Who Made Honky-Tonk Angels" and the true queen of country music?□

Considered by most as the first female country music star, Wells was born in Nashville and is now 91 years of age and the oldest living member of the Country Music Hall of Fame. She has been married to country star Johnnie Wright, 96, who was born in Mt. Juliet, for 73 years. Since 1952, Well has had over 30 Top-10 country hits. She and her husband live just north of Nashville in Madison, Tenn.

If you have a trivia question about actors, singers, movies, TV shows or pop culture, e-mail your query to Ken Beck at