

Depp defends 'Satan' killers

Page Six

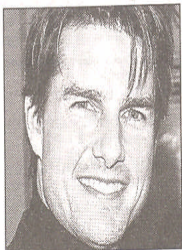
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Cryn' for Ryan

AUSSIE actress **Abbie Cornish** dumped **Ryan Phillippe** over the weekend amid rumors of his wandering eye and late-night partying. A rep for Cornish confirmed the split to the Melbourne Herald Sun, which also reported Cornish, 27, was spotted moving her stuff out of the LA house she shared with Phillippe, 35. They met on the set of "Stop-Loss" in 2006 when Phillippe was still married to **Reese Witherspoon**. Weeks later, he left the mother of his two kids after seven years of marriage. Phillippe was at Kenmare last week flirting with a string of Cornish look-alikes.



JOHNNY Depp may have fallen through a rabbit hole. To promote his movie version of "Alice in Wonderland," he's advocating the release of three men convicted of murdering three boys in a suspected satanic ritual.

Depp will appear on CBS's "48 Hours Mystery" on Sunday to call for reopening the case of the West Memphis Three — convicted as teenagers of beating three 8-year-olds to death in 1994 — because he believes they never got a fair trial.

Jason Baldwin and **Jessie Misskelley** were sentenced to life in prison, and **Damien Echols**, who is on death row, have all spent 16 years behind bars. But Depp joins

such supporters as **Eddie Vedder**, Metallica, **Winona Ryder** and the Dixie Chicks in arguing they were convicted because they were devotees of heavy metal music, **Stephen King** novels and the occult.

Famously private Depp's agreement to appear on the "mystery" news documentary show even shocked CBS workers, with one staffer telling us last night: "Johnny Depp on '48 Hours' — are you joking?"

But Depp, who'll also be on "The CBS Early Show" Thursday to promote "Alice," his new Disney movie produced by **Tim Burton**, says Echols is running out of time.

He says on "48 Hours," "I firmly believe

Damien Echols, **Jason Baldwin** and **Jessie Misskelley** are totally innocent. It was a need for swift justice to placate the community. **Damien Echols** is on death row to be killed by lethal injection."

The "48 Hours" investigation will highlight supposedly crucial new DNA and forensic evidence which could potentially clear the trio, as well as alleged juror misconduct that contributed to the convictions.

A rep for Depp — who plays the Mad Hatter in the 3D "Alice" being released March 5 with **Helena Bonham Carter**, **Crispin Glover** and **Anne Hathaway** — did not return calls or an e-mail.



Sightings

NEW Manhattan DA **Cyrus Vance Jr.** and wife **Peggy** re- ing with former sex crimes

sector **Jim Fairstein** and husband **Justin Feldman** at Pri- ... MISS Universe 2009 **Stefania Fernandez** and Miss Universe 2008 **Dayana Mendoza** lunching at Solo with their

immigration lawyer, **Michael Wildes** ... **HELEN Gurley Brown**, out for the first time since her husband **Dan Brown** died, celebrating her 88th birthday with friends at '21' ... **MICK Jagger** and girlfriend **L'Wren Scott** dancing in the aisle at "Fela!"



Chuck opens door too soon