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## Arts & Entertainment

Tuesday November 18, 2008



Santa returns this weekend!

### Weekend Buzz

by Scott Fairbanks  
File photo  
Published Nov 12, 2008

Movies from halfway around the world will be on display this weekend as well as the return of the big guy in the red suit.

#### Polish Film Festival

Explore some world cinema this weekend at The Little Theatre. The movie house plays host to the Polish Film Festival Saturday through next Wednesday.

On hand is Jerzy Stuhr, a famous Polish film actor and director. Five of his works will be shown during the fest.

Organizers say Polish films often tackle philosophical questions more in-depth than Hollywood.

"They ask big questions about life and the contemporary social order and how things change as a result of the transformation of polish society from communism to democracy," said Randall Stone, Skalny Center.

#### • Review: 'Quantum of Solace'

In the opening sequence of "Quantum of Solace," James Bond crashes his way through a winding Italian highway.

#### • This Week 'At the Movies'

James Bond returns to the big screen and a young Indian orphan finds himself a millionaire in this week's "At the Movies."

#### • EW DVD Review: 'Sleeping Beauty'

Animation has come a long way from the days of "Pinocchio" and "Dumbo."

#### • Movie Review: 'Role Models'

"Role Models" is a comedy about two underachievers who get sentenced to 150 hours of community service. Each of them has to play big brother to a kid with major adjustment problems.

#### • 'Missing' Released on Special DVD Set

The 1982 Oscar race for Best Picture fielded one of the strangest arrays of movies you could come up with

#### • Review: High School Musical 3

"High School Musical 3" gives you an honest jolt of feel-good fizz.

#### • 'Eleventh Hour' is Another Dark Drama

CBS knows no limits when it comes to the various forms of geniuses they like to trot out on their various procedural dramas.

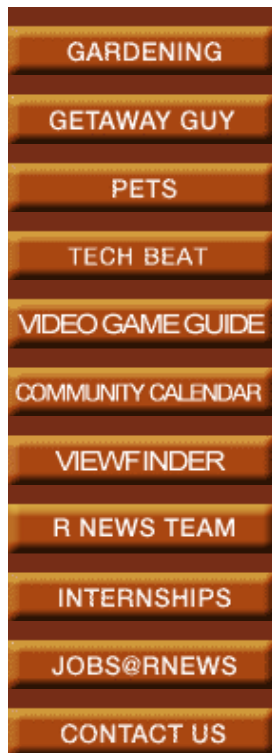
#### • Two For One: 'My Own Worst Enemy'

I'm not sure it's possible for me to properly explain the plot of NBC's "My Own Worst Enemy" without confusing the heck out of you, but here goes: "My Own Worst Enemy" is a story of two people, Edward and Henry.

#### • EW DVD Review: New Indiana Jones Film

They say that sometimes the past is better left in the past. And after sitting through this summer's nostalgia-palooza "Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull," I couldn't agree more.

#### • Arts Industry Becoming Big Business





Both Polish comedies and dramas will be on display. Tickets are \$8 for evening shows and \$6 for matinees.

#### Santa Claus is Coming to Town

Also this weekend: you better watch out, you better not cry. Santa Claus is coming to town Saturday at 11 a.m. at Greece Ridge Mall.

The fun starts with a free screening of Jim Carrey as "The Grinch" at the mall's Regal Theatre. After that, Santa will lead kids on a parade around the mall ending at his castle at center court.

The movie tickets are available at Regal Greece Ridge now through Friday while supplies last.

#### Triple Espresso at Geva

Need a little comedy to wake you up? How about "Triple Espresso" on Geva's Nextstage?

The caffeinated comedy involves three friends and their quest for comedy fame. Gorillas and sock puppets get in on the act too.

Suitable for the whole family, "Triple Espresso" runs through January 11.

Tickets are \$17.50 for those under 30; \$25 for regular un-reserved seating.

*ajleb*

[Little Theatre](#)  
[Geva Theatre](#)



Print Friendly Version

Business and the arts may seem to be two completely different aspects of life, but in New York they are very much intertwined.

#### • **Movie Review: 'What Just Happened'**

Barry Levinson's "What Just Happened" is an inside Hollywood satire with a difference. The hero is a producer and the movie, believe it or not, is on his side

#### • **Holiday Special For Jazz Fest Club Pass**

The Rochester International Jazz Festival doesn't start for several months but you can already buy tickets at a special holiday rate.

#### • **'Heroes,' Season Three: Traffic Jam**

Two seasons ago, "Heroes" was the hot new hip phenomenon on television. The characters were fresh, the writing was sharp, and it was just plain exciting.

#### • **EW DVD Review: 'Ironman'**

I'll admit it right up front; I'm not a big fan of superhero movies. "Superman"? Not interested. "Hulk"? Pass. Even this summer's big "Batman" flick would not have done a thing for me, had it not been for Heath Ledger's Joker.

#### • **Movie Review: 'W'**

Director Oliver Stone has given us two previous movies about U.S. presidents, "JFK" and "Nixon." His latest film looks at the current occupant of the White House. It's simply called "W."

#### • **'Dexter' Cheepyness Grows on You Over Time**

Sometimes you watch a show, and for whatever reason, even with all the other people telling you how great it is, it just doesn't click. That's the way I've always felt about "Dexter."

#### • **EW DVD Review: 'Sex and the City Movie'**

I was never a huge fan of the TV show "Sex and the City." Not that it wasn't smart and clever and funny and all that - it probably was. I just never got swept up in it.

#### • **Movie Review: 'Body of Lies'**

Director Ridley Scott and actor Russell Crowe have teamed up many times before, perhaps most notably in "Gladiator." For their latest film, "Body Of Lies," they've enlisted another superstar, Leonardo DiCaprio.

#### • **'Skins' - British Import Among the Best**

Fall. The season where networks throw tons of new programming up against a wall and see what sticks.

#### • **EW DVD Review: 'Risky Business'**

When "Risky Business" came out in the summer of 1983, I was 14. My friends and I managed to convince an older teenager waiting in line to buy tickets for us. I think we may have given him a couple of bucks, but it didn't matter, because "Risky Business" was my first R-rated movie.

#### • **New Drama Not Quite As Dramatic**

There's a changing of the guard going on over at the FX network. Its longtime standby drama, "The Shield," began its final season recently and the network also debuted another gritty new drama named "Sons of Anarchy" that it clearly hopes can take its place.

#### • **EW DVD Review: 'L.A. Confidential'**

Now that "L.A. Confidential" has just been reissued in a two-disk special edition, evil has never looked so inviting since 1974's "Chinatown."

#### • **'Choke' is About Addiction - and Despair**

I'm a sucker for dramas of addiction, and I know I'm not alone. We're all hooked on something, even if it's just

French fries or Sudoku.

• **EW TV Review: 'Fringe'**

In the 1990s, "The X-Files" became a sensation for the Fox network, by mixing a spooky serialized mythology with stand-alone monster of the week storylines. It's a formula that Fox has not been able to duplicate since.

• **'The Big Lebowski'**

Before the Coen brothers finally earned a seat at the grow-up table last year with their Best Picture winner "No Country For Old Men," they were Hollywood's smart-aleck sibling pranksters. Too sarcastic for the kids' table and not serious enough to sit with the elders.

• **Call me a Geek But I Love 'Greek'**

I don't make a habit of watching a whole lot on the ABC Family channel because, well, I'm not a 14-year-old girl. But I can't help but drink up the frothy charm of "Greek."

• **'Where in the World is Osama Bin Laden?'**

Morgan Spurlock is lightweight Michael Moore. Of course, this is literally true to anyone who's laid their eyes on the two documentary filmmakers.

• **Not Everyone Loves This Movie, Italian or Not**

"Everybody Wants to Be Italian," a new romantic comedy, centers on the relationship between two people who are not Italian, but pretend to be because they think that's the other one's ethnicity.

• **'Tim & Eric Awesome Show' is - Awesome**

I'm not going to sit here and pretend like I can explain what the heck "Tim and Eric Awesome Show, Great Job!" is about.

• **EW DVD Review: 'Recount'**

It doesn't matter whether you're a Republican or Democrat, there's no getting around the fact that the 2000 presidential election stank like low tide.

• **Review: 'Hamlet 2'**

The British actor-comedian Steve Coogan is tall, with a merry, wolfish grin that would be even more dashing if it weren't a bit lopsided.

• **'Project Runway' Not Sew Great**

It's not enough to be good at something if you want to become a reality television star.

• **'Harold & Kumar Escape from Guantanamo Bay'**

From "Cheech and Chong" to "Fast Times at Ridgemont High," to the brand-new "Pineapple Express," stoner comedies have a long, rich tradition in Hollywood. Okay, maybe not rich. But they have been around for a while.

• **Kingsley Stars in 'Elegy'**

When Ben Kingsley gets hold of a role he really connects with, he doesn't have to create fireworks. He lights up a character from within.

• **'Mad Man' Back on AMC for Season Two**

If you're like most people, you've likely seen lots of "Mad Men," and yet at the same time, never seen it at all.

• **EW DVD Review: 'Gossip Girl'**

If the women in "Sex and the City" were about 20 years younger... who am I kidding, 30 years younger, they might be a lot like the teens in "Gossip Girl," the show that just released its first season on DVD.

- **Review: 'Vicky Cristina Barcelona'**

A few years ago when Woody Allen changed locales to England from his beloved New York with "Match Point," the results made for a refreshing new film. For his latest movie, "Vicky Cristina Barcelona," he's changed cities again.

- **TV Goes to the Dogs**

Full disclosure: I am a cat guy, have always been a cat guy. I grew up in a house filled with cats with cutesy cat names like Fluffy, Foo Foo, and Mr. Whiskers. So feline friendly people like me are probably not the target audience for CBS' latest reality entry, "Greatest American Dog." Still, let me say this - this is one seriously ridiculous reality show.

- **'Shine a Light'**

Even with Martin Scorsese behind the camera, I'm not sure the Rolling Stones really needed another documentary.

- **'Frozen River' - Realistic and Gripping**

In 'Frozen River,' the veteran actress Melissa Leo has one of those faces that's all creases and hollows and weather-roughened valleys

- **'21'**

Over the past few years, Texas Hold 'Em has become a television phenomenon.

- **'The Bank Job'**

Even if the name Jason Statham doesn't ring a bell, his face is probably familiar.

- **Movie Review: 'Swing Vote'**

"Swing Vote" takes its lead from the contested 2000 presidential election, which came down to a few votes in Florida, and Obama and Clinton's recent fight for electoral votes.

- **'The Middleman'**

Comic book adaptations are hot. "Iron Man" made about a bazillion dollars at the box office and they ever decided to make another Hulk film even though they put out an awful Hulk film just five years ago.

- **'Persepolis'**

Marjane Satrapi's "Persepolis" is one of the best movies to come out in a while. But I can think of at least three reasons why people's knee-jerk reaction to the film "Persepolis" might be: "not interested."

- **'Burn Notice' Season Two Is Welcome Heat**

It's hot out there this time of year. Really hot. So I suppose it's only appropriate that the USA network has reissued a "Burn Notice."

- **'Vantage Point'**

With movies like "All the President's Men," "The Parallax View" and "Three Days of the Condor," the 1970s were a golden age for political conspiracies on film.

- **'Dark Knight' - Twisty and Exciting**

in "The Dark Knight," good and evil are not just separate forces. At times, they're a whisper away from each other.

- **'Generation Kill'**

Previous scripted shows and movies based on fighting in the Middle East have failed to gain an audience, but that hasn't stopped HBO from airing its seven-part series "Generation Kill."

- **Director Documents 'Chicago 10'**

How do you make a movie out of the Chicago Seven trial? The trial, which commenced in the fall of 1969,

was a mad counterculture circus of Yippies, antiwar activists, and other leaders of the 1968 Chicago protests who were branded as conspirators.

• **Van Damme Travels Back in Time**

Jean-Claude van Damme has always gotten a bum rap.

• **'Penelope' - an Offbeat Fairy Tale**

Throughout her career, Christina Ricci has taken on a wide variety of offbeat roles. Her latest film, called "Penelope," certainly follows that trend.

• **'Hancock,' 'American Girl' Films Debut**

In "Hancock," Will Smith plays a Los Angeles super hero who's a drunk, a slob, and a not-very-nice guy.

• **'Get Smart' - They Should Have, Before it Was Made**

Originally a clever sitcom created by Mel Brooks and Buck Henry in the mid-1960s, "Get Smart," continues the trend of old television shows turned new feature-length films.

• **'Wanted'**

Angelina Jolie is one of those actresses who seem to be able to seamlessly jockey back and forth between action flicks and dramatic films. Her latest movie is an explosive shoot 'em up and it's called "Wanted."

• **Pixar's Latest Flick Takes Off**

There's a good way to measure how well an animated film takes over your imagination. Do you forget during the movie that you're even watching animation?

• **'Secret Diary of a Call Girl'**

Let's be honest here. If you're tuning in to a show called "Secret Diary of a Call Girl," you're no doubt hoping to see some, um, calling, being done.

• **'Dirty Harry: The Ultimate Collector's Edition'**

When Clint Eastwood first strutted onscreen as "Dirty Harry" in 1971, accompanied by the jazzy score of Lalo Schiffrin, he was a new kind of cop. Or, a new kind of old-school cop.

• **'The Incredible Hulk - Not as Bad as the First One**

Rebooting a blockbuster franchise that never got off the ground in the first place may not seem like the smartest move, but there's a certain brute logic to it.

• **'My Boys' - Tomboys, One Girl; Easy to Like**

There's a civil war afoot in the halls of Entertainment Weekly. Sides have been taken. Battle lines have been drawn. The issue at hand? Whether my co-workers are fans or foes of TBS' tomboy comedy "My Boys."

• **Latest 'Rambo' Filled with Carnage**

When Sylvester Stallone first donned a headband as the John Rambo in 1982's "First Blood," he was a Vietnam vet desperately trying to make sense of the country he came back to after the war.

• **'Swingtown' - Too Racy for Primetime?**

A television show about couple-swapping in the 1970s doesn't seem so far fetched. Until you realize that said show is not on HBO or Showtime or even FX, but rather CBS.

• **'Timecop'**

Just re-released as part of a two-disc "Quadruple Feature Van Damme Fight Pack", "Timecop" is twisty, smarter than it has any right to be, and lousy with neck-snappin' Belgian justice from Van Damme -- the Muscles from Brussels.

- **Should You `Mess With The Zohan?'**

On paper, Adam Sandler's latest movie, "You Don't Mess With The Zohan," seems like it might have a lot of comedic potential.

- **'In Plain Sight' is One Tough U.S. Marshall**

Move over, Kyra Sedgwick; make a little room, Holly Hunter, because cable television has yet another tough broad of a cop with personal issues.

- **Zombie Movies: Love 'em or Hate 'em**

When it comes to zombie movies, opinions are pretty binary; there's no middle ground. You either love them or revel in all of their bloody, undead gruesome goodness, or you can't stomach them.

- **'Lost:' Season Finale**

The 2007-2008 network television season is almost done. We had a marriage proposal on "The Office," a "Desperate Housewives" flash-forward, and a Cook who became "American Idol." But the best may have just been saved for last.

- **DVD Review: Tenebre**

Unless you're a real horror film nerd, the name Dario Argento probably doesn't mean very much to you

- **New Narnia Movie Darker Than First**

Like the C.S. Lewis novel it's based on, the new Chronicles of Narnia film, "Prince Caspian," follows a tradition of darkening sequels.

- **Indiana Jones & The Quest for a Box Office Hit**

It's been 27 years since the first Indiana Jones movie, 19 years since the last one and its action hero Harrison Ford is now 65 years old. But despite the obvious drawbacks, director Steven Spielberg and producer George Lucas have made a new one.

- **'The Adventures of Indiana Jones'**

I'll admit it: "Indiana Jones and the Crystal Skull" is the only movie I'm looking forward to this summer. I'm not a superheroes guy, which rules out about half the films on the calendar. And I couldn't care less about the gals in "Sex and the City."

- **Saavy 'Smart People' Emerges**

In the movie "Smart people," a small, sharp, and pleasingly literate comedy, Dennis Quaid is Lawrence Wetherhold, a burnt-out English professor at Carnegie Mellon University who has been drifting ever since his wife died.

- **'Violent City'**

Sergio Sollima's "Violent City" is a crazy Italian crime film from 1970 that's just been reissued on DVD.

- **Iron Man Glides Into Second Weekend**

In "Iron Man," Robert Downey Jr. doesn't dial down his eager narcissistic wit. As Tony Stark, a high-living celebrity weapons contractor who is wounded on a trel through Afghanistan, only to transform himself into a hulking mechanical rocket man, Downey, whoever he's talking to, is really just nattering to himself.

- **'Farmer Wants a Wife' Review**

Take the fish-out-of-water hilarity of "The Simple Life" and combine it with the romantic charm of "The Bachelor," and you have the CW's new dating show "Farmer Wants a Wife."

- **'Cloverfield'**

When the first teasers for "Cloverfield" showed up out of the blue almost a year ago, there was plenty of reason to get one's hopes up.

- **Dempsey stars in Made of Honor**

Patrick Dempsey, who is best known these days for playing McDreamy on TV's Grey's Anatomy, is starring in a big screen movie. It's a romantic comedy and it's called "Made of Honor."

- **'Lars And The Real Girl'**

Ryan Gosling has been turning in one great performance after another since his breakout role in 2001's "The Believer." His latest film is "Lars and the Real Girl."

- **I Can't Get With These 'Step It Up' Kids**

We have people working to cure cancer. We have people working to explore interstellar space travel. We have people working to curb global warming.

- **'The Mist'**

Frank Darabont has turned directing Stephen King prison stories into a one-man cottage industry. His first film was 1994's "The Shawshank Redemption." And he followed that up with 1999's "The Green Mile."

- **New Comedy Full of Movie Laughs**

It's been a while since I've been able to recommend a good comedy – one that makes you laugh out loud and does it frequently. The new movie "Forgetting Sarah Marshall" does exactly that.

- **'Idol:' Loving Their Pain?**

"American Idol" fundraising show Idol Gives Back raised tens of millions of dollars for causes in dire need of financial aid.

- **'There Will Be Blood'**

Daniel Day-Lewis is one of those actors that could make napping onscreen riveting. In his previous movies he's always been so good that he threatens to overshadow the rest of movie going on around him. That's exactly what happens in Paul Thomas Anderson's recent slow-burn Oscar nominee "There Will Be Blood."

- **Battlestar Enters its Last Season**

With the writer's strike over, most of our favorite network programs are finally coming back to life. But TV's most intriguing resurrection is happening over on the SciFi Channel with "Battlestar Galactica," which just began its fourth and final season.

- **'Sweeney Todd'**

Tim Burton seems like the perfect guy to make "Sweeney Todd." After all, the director of "Beetlejuice," "Sleepy Hollow," and "Edward Scissorhands" must have a pretty dark soul, right?

- **Clooney Directs & Stars in Latest Flick**

If you look at the work of George Clooney, he often makes movies that are not set in the present. His latest film "Leatherheads" is no exception - it's set in the roaring 20's.

- **'Ninja' and 'Banzuke:' Great Wipeouts!**

I'll admit it: I'm a sucker for the wipeout. Give me a good face plant, butt buster, or head-over-heels tumble, and I'm a happy, happy man.

- **'Mafioso'**

Part of the fun of this job is occasionally putting aside the splashy, big releases of the week and spotlighting a smaller movie that slipped through the cracks or was never even on the radar to begin with. The 1962 black-and-white Italian comedy "Mafioso" is one of these films.

- **Big Cash, Big Dreams in '21'**

If you ever dreamt of beating a casino at its own game, the new movie "21" is for you. Making it even more enjoyable is the fact that it's based on a true story.

• **'John Adams' on HBO - a Rare Treat**

Believe it or not, HBO actually has a series airing that does not involve therapy. After "The Sopranos," and "Tell Me You Love Me," and "In Treatment," the pay cable channel has decided to kick it old school.

• **Ang Lee's 'Ice Storm' Chills You**

Icicles sway and chime in the frozen trees, sounding notes of impending doom. It is 1973: The era of shag carpets, corduroy, and Connecticut key parties. Richard Nixon is smiling his sweaty, I'm-not-a-crook smile on a rabbit-eared TV set.

• **Jack Black Stars in Gondry Whimsey**

"Be Kind, Rewind" is the latest movie from Michel Gondry, who made the great "Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind," as well as a handful of other films so whimsical they practically float off the screen.

• **'Daisy Kenyon'**

Joan Crawford was never the most subtle actress. Her eyebrows were always penciled on a little too heavily, she always came across as tremendously high-strung, and she had a tendency to elbow her costars out of scenes like Shaquille O'Neal going after rebounds.

• **Carrey Voices Horton in Seuss Movie**

A few years ago, Jim Carrey starred in the pretty awful big-screen live-action version of Dr. Seuss's children's tale, "How The Grinch Stole Christmas." Now, Carrey's back in another Seuss vehicle. But this go around, you'll only hear his voice in the animated "Horton Hears A Who."

• **Weekend Movies at a Glance**

In Doomsday, a dangerous virus resurfaces in a major city, after being dormant for decades.

• **Why 'Survivor' Lasts ... and Lasts**

We all struggle with addictions in life. Mine happens to be an unhealthy obsession with the reality TV program "Survivor."

• **'No Country for Old Men'**

When the Coen brothers recently accepted one of their slew of Oscars for the existential Texas crime flick "No Country For Old Men," they thanked those in the crowd for allowing them to play in their corner of the sandbox since the start of their careers.

• **Jason Statham in 'The Bank Job'**

Over the years, heist movies, from the "Ocean's" films to "The Thomas Crown Affair" to sleek trash like "The Italian Job," have evolved into fantasy.

• **'Unhitched' Goes Way Below the Belt**

"Unhitched" is basically a cruder, ruder version of "Seinfeld."

• **'In The Valley Of Elah'**

In the past year there's been no shortage of movies tackling the state of the world. Some of these movies were lousy, so you were right to stay away. But there's one that deserves a second chance-Paul Haggis' "In the Valley of Elah."

• **Dead Rise Again in Zombie Film**

In George A. Romero's "Diary of the Dead," Romero has the dead rising up for the umpteenth time, this time to chow down on a new generation of human meat.

• **I Swear - 'Moment of Truth' is BAD**

I like some bad TV. I mean really bad TV.

**• 'Gone Baby Gone'**

Between "Mystic River," "The Departed," and now "Gone Baby Gone" – just out on DVD – South Boston has become the new crime capital of Hollywood.

**• Comedy Show Nothing Special**

"Vince Vaughn's Wild West Comedy Show" has a hang-loose, what-the-heck spirit that's easy and fun to hook into.

**• Lost: Who Will Get Off The Island?**

This just in: Dr. Jack Shepherd makes it off the island! Okay, that's not exactly new news.

**• 'Tootsie' Released on DVD**

In 1982 "Tootsie" was one of the biggest box-office draws of the decade. Now, 25 years later, that film has been lovingly restored and packed with extras in a new anniversary edition DVD.

**• 'Fool's Gold' Romance Takes a Dive**

Back in 2003, Matthew McConaughey and Kate Hudson teamed up for a pretty boring romantic comedy called "How to Lose a Guy in Ten Days." Now, five years later, they've reunited for a new mediocre movie called "Fool's Gold."

**• This 'Lipstick' is Smeared**

Full disclosure time: I never much cared for "Sex and the City."

**• 'The Invasion'**

Nicole Kidman made some bad decisions lately. In "The Invasion," the latest and umpteenth spin on the wheezy, old sci-fi chestnut "The Invasion of the Body Snatchers," she serves up another turkey.

**• Montana Pleases Movie Goers**

Hannah Montana & Miley Cyrus: Best of Both Worlds Concert, in which the bouncy diva of prepubescent bubble gum pantomimes every rebel-yell gesture in history.

**• 'Breaking Bad' - a Darker 'Weeds'**

I always liked Bryan Cranston. While Frankie Muniz and Jane Kaczmarek usually got all the accolades for "Malcom in the Middle," I thought Cranston was a gas as the spazzy patriarch.

**• Comedy Weekend At the Movies**

In "Fool's Gold" Matthew McConaughey plays a treasure hunter trying to locate an 18th century queen's dowry lost at sea nearly 300 years ago.

**• Movie Reveals Prison Torture**

Last year, it became conventional wisdom that people won't show up, at least in any great number, to see movies about Iraq, Afghanistan, or the post-9/11 world.

**• Rock of Love 2 - Just as Bad as 1**

They say every rose has its thorn. Well, he says it. That guy. Brett Michaels.

**• 'Good Luck Chuck'**

Can we finally just admit that Dane Cook isn't funny? The popular stand-up comedian may have a zillion friends on MySpace and a Saturday Night Live hosting gig under his belt, but that doesn't mean the guy can act.

**• 'Celebrity Rehab' Is Just Scary**

There are only a few television shows that have legitimately scared me.

**• 'Zodiac: Director's Cut' on DVD**

Last year, Paramount released a barebones DVD version of "Zodiac." Now the studio has released a

new, extras-packed 2-disc Director's Cut of the David Fincher film.

• **Allen's Cassandra is No Dream**

For his last few movies, Woody Allen has changed locales from his beloved New York to London. His latest film continues that trend and it's called "Cassandra's Dream."

• **A Groom for Jane in "27 Dresses?"**

See Jane get mad. Jane screaming and hitting her purse on counter. See Jane pass out.

• **Sarah Connor - SHE'LL be Back**

This just in: John Connor, the alleged future leader of mankind in their battle against the machines, is a wimp. At least he is when compared to his mommy.

• **'Joshua' Now Available on DVD**

When in doubt at the video store, I always say there's nothing like a good demon-child movie.

• **Review: 'The Kite Runner'**

The best-selling novel "The Kite Runner" has been transferred to the screen and the setting in the movie, as well as in the book, is both Afghanistan and America.

• **Weekend Movies All About Fun**

Two men, who meet in the hospital, decide that after they get out, they are going to have a little fun.

• **'The Wire:' Taut, Tight and Tense**

Every year critics like yours truly say the same thing: "The Wire" is the best show on television.

• **'Two-Lane Blacktop' on 2-Disc DVD**

"Two-Lane Blacktop" has just been released in a beautiful new two-disc Criterion edition DVD.

• **2007: Full of Flicks That Flopped**

This time of year we often talk about the contenders for academy award nominations, but this story is not about those movies, but rather the flicks that were flops.

• **Top Ten Films of 2007**

While this wasn't exactly a banner year for quality films there were some bright spots. NY1's Neil Rosen picks his ten favorite films of 2007.

• **'Great American Band' is Just Fun**

Reality shows are supposed to be the new kings of TV water coolers. But what happens when you're the only person watching a particular program?

• **'Starting Out' Stars Frank Langella**

"Starting Out in the Evening" is the very bad title of a very fine movie starring Frank Langella.

• **'Compass:' 'Narnia' it's Not**

Big, noisy, and fantastic yet curiously sodden, too, filled with talking animals and sparkly light showers, "The Golden Compass" is a mystical whiz-bang kiddie ride that hovers somewhere between the loopy and the lugubrious.

• **Against the Odds, 'Life' is Good**

By almost any measure, NBC's 'Life' has no business being on the air.

• **Director Sidney Lumet Still Has It**

Thirty years ago, when he made teeming, energized, powerful movies like "Serpico" and "Dog Day Afternoon," director Sidney Lumet epitomized a certain brute-force '70s realism.

• **This Summer's Sleeper Hits**

This summer's two biggest sleeper hits were a pair of raunchy sex comedies starring geeky fat dudes

swearing like sailors and masking their fear of the opposite sex with profane rants.

• **'Housewives' Has its Mojo Back**

When a show loses its creative mojo, it is very hard to get it back, which is what makes this season of ABC's "Desperate Housewives" so impressive.

• **Bale Shines in 'Rescue Dawn'**

Christian Bale has always been one of those actors who's easy to admire but hard to love. He's been dependably solid, but do you have any idea who the guy is in real life?

• **Bob Dylan Movie - Intense, Biopic**

"I'm Not There" is Todd Haynes's thrilling deep-vision meditation on the music and many lives of Bob Dylan. Haynes shoots way past love or worship.

• **It's Amazing Again, & No More Kids!**

There are few things I hated in life more than the "Amazing Race Family Edition."

• **'Ocean's 13' Revives the Franchise**

The thrill of watching George Clooney, Brad Pitt and the rest of the gang in the Ocean's movies is feeling like we're along for the ride.

• **The Buzz About The Bee Movie**

Comedian Jerry Seinfeld brings his talents to the world of animation with his new film Bee Movie.

• **Good Actors Wasted in 'Fred Claus'**

The holiday season is quickly approaching and that means a whole new slew of holiday films. Now most of these, usually, are not that good, but occasionally you get a great one in the bunch, like "Elf."

• **'Close Encounters' on 3-Disc DVD**

Of course, Steven Spielberg may be the most famous director in America, but among a certain set of movie snobs-the ones who think that the late '60s and early '70s were the golden age of cinema, Spielberg is the antichrist.

• **'Lions for Lambs' Genius or Folly?**

Lions for Lambs is the rare Hollywood message movie that doesn't pretend to be a thriller or a love story or a vehicle for George Clooney's five o'clock shadow heroism.

• **'Back to You' Stars Still have It**

In the age of hip, irreverent single-camera comedies like The Office, 30 Rock and Entourage, one has to wonder if the traditional filmed before a live studio audience sitcom is a dying breed.

• **Two-Disc 'Three Stooges' DVD Out**

Starting in 1934, Columbia Pictures began cranking out shorts featuring a trio of knuckleheads named Moe, Larry, and Curly. It's fair to say, young boys have never be the same since.

• **'Transformers' Has Its High Points**

Chris Nashawaty reviews the Michael Bay directed Transformers.

• **Review: 'American Gangster'**

As Frank Lucas, the brutal Harlem drug lord of "American Gangster," Denzel Washington has a gaze as steady as a statue's, and he wanders through the vibrantly messy New York streets.

• **Help! Somebody Save 'Heroes'**

Last year, we were introduced to a group of ordinary people with extraordinary abilities who were out to save the world. Now, it appears they are the ones who need saving.

- **'Rendition' Tough in Many Ways**

'Rendition' is a grimly star-studded message movie that takes a long, hard look at the current American policy of extraordinary rendition -- that is, the detention of terrorist suspects in secret overseas prisons, where the rules of interrogation are, shall we say, a bit more lax than they are here.

- **Find Out What Happens in Room 1408**

Chris Nashawaty reviews the John Cusack/Samuel L. Jackson film 1408.

- **Movie Review: 'Control'**

When Ian Curtis, the lead singer of Joy Division, hanged himself in 1980, at the age of 23, the mystery of his suicide cast a shadow over the mythology of the band.

- **Dark Series of Films for October**

- **A Predictable, But Good Film**

"We Own The Night" is the name of a new crime drama. It stars Joaquin Phoenix, Mark Wahlberg and Robert Duvall, and the setting is New York.

- **DVD Review: '28 Weeks Later'**

It may not receive a ticker-tape parade or a presidential decree, but next year, the modern zombie film will celebrate its 40th anniversary.

- **Farely Flick Breaks Hearts**

The 1972 film, "The Heartbreak Kid" was one of my all time favorite comedies. It was written by Neil Simon and starred Charles Grodin. Now there's a Farely brothers remake with Ben Stiller in the lead.

- **New 'Bionic Woman' is Not all New**

I had big hopes for NBC's remake of "The Bionic Woman." After all, it came from one of the creative minds behind the incredible "Battlestar Galactica" re-launch.

- **'Knocked Up' Out on 2-Disc DVD**

The new two-disc version of Knocked Up offers more than three hours of extras.

- **'Into the Wild' - Intense, Pure**

Occasionally, I'll pass a person who is obviously a slumming middle-class kid in nose rings, and when I do, I generally have to stifle the desire to bark out something like "Go back to Seattle!"

- **Weekend Movies Add Exciting Twists**

Most kids just go through puberty, but bigger changes are in store for Will Stanton.

- **'Brotherhood' is Back on Showtime**

Missing "The Sopranos?" Well, the next best thing is happening over on Showtime and it's called "Brotherhood."

- **HF Actor Makes 'Cavemen' Debut**

A Honeoye Falls actor made his primetime TV debut.

- **'Death Proof' DVD Lacks Features**

When the double-feature Grindhouse hit theaters in April, fans of Quentin Tarantino and Robert Rodriguez were given more than just two films for the price of one they were given a ride-a ride through the infectious diseased brains of the two films' creators.

- **Review: 'The Jane Austen Book Club'**

The new movie "The Jane Austen Book Club" has a title that could turn off the average movie-goer who's not already enamored with Austen and her writings. But don't judge a book by its cover or in this case a film

by its name.

- **Astronaut Tales Capture the Magic**

"In the Shadow of the Moon" is a transporting new documentary in which astronauts from all the Apollo missions talk about what it was like to travel to the moon and back.

- **'Deliverance' Released on DVD**

Cocky, macho, and handsome as hell, Burt Reynolds' electric performance as the alpha-male weekend warrior Lewis Medlock is only one of the reasons why Deliverance holds up 35 years after its release.

- **Movie Review: 'The Nines'**

Few network television series are as gripping, to me, as a good inside-dope dramatization of what goes on behind the scenes of network television.

- **Weekend Movies Full of Action**

The resident evil trilogy, based on the popular video games, concludes with Resident Evil: Extinction.

- **Fox's Nashville - a Bit Out of Tune**

I struggle sometimes with the word reality. I'm speaking, of course, about reality TV, which usually has very little to do with actual reality.

- **Hoffman Shines in 'The Graduate'**

Forty years ago, leading men didn't look like Dustin Hoffman. Which is to say, they weren't 5'6" and Jewish

- **'Brave One' Seems Vaguely Familiar**

One of this weekend's big box-office hits at the movies stars a well-known box office name, Jodie Foster. The movie is called "The Brave One."

- **'Weeds' Gets You Rooting for Them**

I'll admit it, when "Weeds" first came on the air, I dismissed it. The whole story of a suburban mom dealing drugs felt like Showtime's attempt to crib from both "Desperate Housewives" (the suburban part) and HBO, by pushing the envelope with the drugs thing.

- **Jodie Foster is 'The Brave One'**

A street crime takes the life of a woman's fiancé. When she can't live with the fear she hunts for the killers. Soon, there's no going back. "The Brave One" is rated R.

- **'Robocop' Redefines Superhero**

I'm not a big fan of superhero movies. All the spandex unitards and overly tortured backstories kind of make it hard for me to get behind guys like Superman and Spidey.

- **Movie Review: '3:10 to Yuma'**

How do you get an audience today to line up for a Western? In "3:10 to Yuma," a sturdy and enjoyable remake of the 1957 minor classic, director James Mangold, in his first film since "Walk the Line," amps up the violence, going for his version of a Sam Peckinpah frenzy.

- **Season's Movies Filled with Action**

Twenty-two robberies and over 400,000 dollars in losses is what is driving people to see the film "3:10 to Yuma."

- **'Geek': Were Do You Fall in Line?**

I never joined a fraternity. Heck, I went to a college that didn't even have fraternities. So I'm not really equipped to tell you what frat life is like. And I'm certainly not equipped to tell you what sorority life is like. So when I heard ABC Family was airing a new dramedy called "Greek," I figured, Okay, there's a show I never have to bother watching.

**• More of the same from Ferrell**

Even fans of Will Ferrell have to admit that all of his comedies are basically the same movie: set an oblivious blowhard in an oddball setting - 70s TV news casting, NASCAR racing - and stand by as the laughs and box-office receipts roll in. The only real difference between, say, "Talladega Nights" and "Anchorman" is in the number of belly laughs. Ferrell's latest, the silly, but not exactly gutbusting, figure skating flick "Blades of Glory" has less laughs than Ron Burgandy and slightly more than Ricky Bobby.

**• Movie Review: 'The Invasion'**

People are turning into pods. They lack emotion, nuance, individuality. They speak and act more or less alike, and they have no tolerance for anyone who dares to be different.

**• 'Balls of Fury' Hits Theatres**

The FBI sends former ping pong phenomenon Randy Daytona underground to help them bust a crime boss. "Balls of Fury" is rated PG13.

**• Flash Gordon is Back on the Scene**

If the Sci Fi Channel has proven anything, it's that it knows how to take a campy science fiction franchise and make it respectable.

**• Stage Star Moves to the Big Screen**

In 1984, a couple of years before either David Mamet or Joe Mantegna graduated from the Broadway stage to the big screen, Mantegna won a Tony for his portrayal of Ricky Roma in Mamet's "Glengarry Glen Ross."

**• 'No End In Sight' Debuts**

No End in Sight is a coolheaded and devastating exposé of the Bush administration's bungling of the Iraq war — a definitive anatomy of disaster, directed by Charles Ferguson with a thirst for history that transcends ideology.

**• 'The Nanny Diaries' Entertains**

The best selling book, "The Nanny Diaries" is now a movie and it stars, in the title role, Scarlett Johansson. Johansson plays Annie Braddock, a recent college grad, from a middle-class background, who takes a temporary job as a nanny, while she tries to figure out what she really wants to do with the rest of her life.

**• Showtime Special, 'Californication'**

I can't tell you how difficult it was to pull clips to go with this review of Showtime's "Californication." That's because pretty much every scene seems to feature a bare-breasted woman or a pantless David Duchovny.

**• Campus Comedy Gets Special Edition**

When it comes to trotting out old or semi-old movies or DVD, big round-number anniversaries are usually the most convenient excuse.

**• Nicole Kidman Invades Theatres**

There are extraterrestrials on the earth, and they're invading human bodies! Nicole Kidman and Daniel Craig star in "The Invasion." It's rated PG13.

**• TV Review: 'Damages'**

Glenn Close is scary. I know this because the woman boils bunnies and in another film she tried to kill a bunch of puppies. But that was all years ago. She must have mellowed with age, right? Well, not exactly.

**• 'Hot Fuzz' Misses the Mark**

In 2004, British director Edgar Wright poked gentle fun at the zombie-movie genre with "Shaun of the Dead."

**• 'The Ten' - Tons of Laughs Comedy**

Rude, crude, no holds barred, nothing-is-sacred comedy is a tricky thing to pull off. But the makers of the new R-rated film "The Ten" manage to do exactly that.

**• 'Stardust' Includes All-Star Cast**

"Stardust," is the name of a new film that is based on a best-selling book. It is one part fantasy, one part action-adventure and one part family comedy.

**• Chan is Back in 'Rush Hour 3'**

Jackie Chan and Chris Tucker are back! This time they team up to take on Chinese organized crime in "Rush Hour 3." It's rated PG13.

**• The Singing Bee: Name that Tune**

Joey Fatone is like a cockroach. I don't say that to be mean. But seriously, every time it appears his career is dead, he finds a way back into the mainstream.

**• "Talk to Me" Good Role for Cheadle**

You can love Don Cheadle's acting and still feel he hasn't really taken a role and walked on the wild side - until now. "Talk to Me" is a rowdy, richly offbeat biopic that casts Cheadle as a trash-talking, hard-living hustler of a disc jockey who just happens to be fast and nasty enough to make himself into a star.

**• Jason Bourne Returns Home**

Jason Bourne returns to the big screen in search of his identity in the third installment of the Bourne series. Matt Damon stars as the trained assassin. "The Bourne Ultimatum" is rated PG-13.

**• Zodiac Lacks Action**

Unless you have new information about the killer, how do you make a movie about an unsolved murder work? That's the hurdle David Fincher faces with his latest film, "Zodiac."

**• The Simpsons Hit the Big Screen**

After 18 seasons on TV, the unique cartoon family known to millions as the Simpsons is finally getting a full length movie.

**• Review: 'Saving Grace'**

Whoa, what the heck happened to Holly Hunter?

**• Have Fun With New Creature Feature**

At the very beginning of the wonderfully fun new monster movie, "The Host," an American military office orders a young Korean scientist to dispose of a bunch of old, toxic chemicals by dumping them down the drain.

**• What's Up with Paula?**

I'm not going to say that Paula Abdul takes drugs. That would be a gross assumption on my part. But after watching her spew out nonsensical ramblings on "American Idol" for six seasons, I can't help but feel that the woman is on something.

**• Obscure Wilder Film Comes to DVD**

The legendary writer/director Billy Wilder has no shortage of masterpieces on his resume.

**• Harry Potter Rises Again**

J.K. Rowling's fifth Harry Potter book, "The Order of the Phoenix," was also her longest. However the new movie adaptation is surprisingly the shortest film in the series. So, readers beware, as some story lines have been shortchanged.

**• Review: 'Flight of the Conchords'**

There was never anything particularly hip about Weird Al Yankovic.

**• British Comedy 'Extras' Not On Top**

When Ricky Gervais' BBC comedy "The Office" started airing on this side of the Atlantic a few years back, it was easy to see its American bloodlines: it had the workplace awkwardness of the "Larry Sanders Show," the cynical me-firstness of "Seinfeld," and a mockumentary pinch of "This is Spinal Tap."

**• Movie Review: Die Hard 4**

It's been nearly 20 years since the first "Die Hard," and a lot of fireballs have passed under the bridge since then. As detective John McClane, Bruce Willis, thankfully ditching his bad toupees, now sports a chrome dome as mean and hard and stripped-down-for-action as he is.

**• 'Transformers' Hit The Big Screen**

It's a robot, you know like a super advanced robot. "Transformers" is rated PG 13.

**• A Balancing Review Act: 'Rescue Me'**

Here comes trouble. That's right, one of TV most combustible characters, Tommy Gavin, is back in season four of FX's firefighting drama "Rescue Me."

**• Willis Featured in Die Hard Box Set**

Back in 1988, Bruce Willis was just a lug with a five o'clock shadow, quick one-liners, and a smirk, sparring with Cybil Shepherd on Moonlighting. Die Hard changed all of that.

**• 'Ratatouille', a Delectable Treat**

Writer, director Brad Bird's two previous animated films, "The Iron Giant" and "The Incredibles" are tough acts to follow. But remarkably, he scores big time with his latest movie.

**• Bruce Willis Dies Hard Yet Again**

Bruce Willis is back as John McClane to stop an attack on the U.S. "Live Free or Die Hard" is rated PG 13.

**• HBO's Big Love**

There was a big hubbub when HBO's drama "Big Love" debuted last year. How scandalous: a show about polygamists! Yes, there were some sex scenes, but what was more remarkable about it was how normal everyone seemed.

**• A Critique of 'Sicko'**

Going into Sicko, Michael Moore's documentary about the horrors of the American health-care system, I was expecting, or maybe dreading, a Michael Moore harangue, a provocation all too willing to mix truth with ideological cheap shots. But Moore, I'm happy to report, listened to his critics, and has emerged with new power as a filmmaker.

**• Is the Show the 'Next Best Thing'?**

I'm not referring to this bald dude who thinks he's Jack Nicholson. Nor am I referring to this Britney Spears wannabe. No, I'm referring to the line about what awaits the winner of this competition. It's not a million dollars like Survivor. Nor it is a surefire recording career like on American Idol. Nope, the winner here gets \$100,000 and... the title of "The Next Best Thing."

**• 'Crash' Lands on Video**

When Robert Hanssen was finally arrested in 2001, the FBI double-agent, who had been selling secrets to the Russians, was hailed as the worst spy in American history.

**• Silver Surfer Rising Not Fantastic**

The first Fantastic Four movie, for me, was a disappointment. Now comes the sequel, "Fantastic

Four: Rise of the Silver Surfer.”

• **'Nancy Drew' Hits the Big Screen**

Teen detective Nancy Drew leaps from bookshelves to the big screen for a Hollywood adventure. High school is hard enough, but toss in a murder mystery and a haunted mansion. This job calls for a super sleuth. "Nancy Drew" is rated PG.

• **TV Review: The 'Pirate Master'**

I'm not sure I've ever seen a show as cheesy, as contrived, and as downright ridiculous as CBS' "Pirate Master."

• **Classic Westerns Showcase Eastwood**

By the early '60s, it was impossible to look at tumbleweed blowing through a John Wayne picture and not think that his brand of stoic heroism was a thing of the past.

• **Sequel Stuffed With Scams & Stunts**

Ocean's Thirteen is Steven Soderbergh's delectably elaborate and savory soufflé of a mother-of-all-scams sequel.

• **Clooney Stars in 'Oceans Thirteen'**

When a casino boss crosses one of their own, the Ocean's gang heads back to Las Vegas. This heist is as much about getting even as it is about the cash. "Ocean's Thirteen" is rated PG13.

• **A Fresh Approach to Film Romance**

Hollywood's been cranking out love stories since before the birth of sound, but is there anything new to say about romance onscreen?

• **'Crazy Love' Mixes Crime, Romance**

"Crazy Love" is Dan Klores' toxically fascinating true-crime/true-romance documentary.

• **'Knocked Up' Now in Theatres**

Here's a look at some of the movies at the box office this weekend. After spending the night together, a guy and a girl he just met, wake to the harsh light of young and unplanned parenthood. "Knocked Up" is rated R.

• **'The Third Man' is Classic Welles**

An unassailable classic, "The Third Man" is the greatest Orson Welles movie that Welles didn't direct himself.

• **Jack Sparrow Sails into Theatres**

Captain Jack Sparrow and his motley crew are back for their third adventure on the high seas. However, the pirate's life is not the life for me.

• **Star Wars: The Legacy Revealed**

I could tell you how many times I've sat through the six "Star Wars" films, but that would be embarrassing, and then you wouldn't be able hear the rest of this report because you would be too busy laughing. But suffice it to say, it is a lot.

• **'Army of Shadows' Available In U.S.**

Of all the great filmmakers to come out of France in the '60s - people like Jean-Luc Godard, Francois Truffaut, and their beret-wearing brethren - one name always seems to get omitted.

• **Shrek Returns for a Third Round**

When Shrek's frogger-in-law, the king, dies, the big, green ogre becomes obligated to don the crown.

• **Americans Love Dancing w/ the Stars**

It is fairly safe to say if someone said that Joey Fatone was dancing in the street right outside their residence, they would have to seriously think about whether they even wanted to get up to go look.

**• The Original Midnight Movie On DVD**

The midnight movie was born in New York City. The year was 1970, and the film was a mystifying Spanish-language fantasia called "El Topo."

**• Russell Stars in 'Waitress'**

Keri Russell, with her frizzed locks and clear angelic eyes, has a look of such pert vivacity that when you first see her in *Waitress*, it's hard to imagine that she's anything but happy.

**• No one is Safe in '28 Weeks Later'**

It was supposed to be safe to come back to London after a deadly virus caused homicidal rage. But the outbreak is not over in "28 Weeks Later." Now the U.S. Army is giving orders to kill. "28 Weeks Later" is rated "R".

**• 24's Sixth Season Lacks Luster**

When the sixth season of 24 kicked off I was a little concerned of what I saw, yet still was hopeful for another pulse pounding day in life of Jack Bauer. Unfortunately, it hasn't turned out that way.

**• Spider-Man 3 Swings Into Theaters**

Hang on, Spider-Man is back to save the day. In this third installment of the big screen series. The familiar red and blue suit of the action hero turns black. "Spider-Man 3" is rated PG13.

**• TV Review: The 'Drive'**

Man, do I have problems – a list way too long to get into here. But one thing I try not to be is indecisive, especially when picking and choosing my entertainment options.

**• Larry Sanders Out On DVD**

Before the "Sopranos" and "Entourage," HBO showed the networks its bleak future with "The Larry Sanders Show."

**• Vacancy, a Sure Fear Flick**

Vacancy is a schlock surprise: a no-frills motel-hell slasher film — with a bit of soul.

**• Nicolas Cage Stars in 'Next'**

Chris Johnson has the ability to look into his future. Now, the FBI wants his help, to stop a terrorist attack. "Next" starring Nicolas Cage and Julianne Moore is rated PG13.

**• Entourage: New Male Sex in the City**

When HBO first premiered *Entourage*, a comedy about a movie star named Vincent Chase and his posse of buddies, they hoped it would become a male version of *Sex and the City*.

**• Okami Offers Unique Combination**

It is rare to find a video game that is beautiful to look at has a positive message and keeps you playing until the wee hours of the night. But *Okami* offers just that combination.

**• 1972's 'Pulp' now out on DVD**

I'm not exactly sure why, but in the past few months a ton of semi-obscure early Michael Caine movies have been released on DVD. Some are god-awful like "Dear Fall" and "Peeper," but some, like 1972's "Pulp," are surprisingly good and totally worth checking out to catch a glimpse of Caine, the young Cockney Adonis, cracking wise and bedding birds like a Carnaby Street Casanova.

**• Fracture Gets a 'B+'**

Anthony Hopkins, as a smirky evil genius trying to get away with murder by confessing to it, and Ryan

Gosling, as the sharkish junior prosecutor who becomes obsessed with getting him convict.

• **Anthony Hopkins stars in 'Fracture'**

After a man admits to killing his wife the case goes to a new assistant district attorney who soon goes head to head with the accused. Oscar winner Anthony Hopkins stars in "Fracture" rated R.

• **The Shield, It Gets Better With Age**

How often does a show get better with age? Not often. But last year, in it's fifth season, FX's The Shield hit a new creative peak.

• **Legos, Star Wars A Good Match**

Reliving the original star wars trilogy through Lego bricks doesn't sound like all that much fun.

• **"All That Jazz" Comes to DVD**

Is it possible to be a genius and a nice guy at the same time? Not according to the movies. Whether it's Ed Harris playing the prickly Jackson Pollock or Bette Davis' Broadway diva in "All About Eve," actors, painters, and writers are all big babies whose worst behavior gets excused because of their talent.

• **'Grindhouse': Classic '70s Movie**

"Grindhouse" is Quentin Tarantino and Robert Rodriguez's madly funny and exciting tribute to the grimy glory days of 1970s exploitation films.

• **Berry Stars in 'Perfect Stranger'**

After the death of her best friend, a reporter tries to figure out what happened. Her search for the truth leads her down a path of danger. Halle Berry and Bruce Willis star in "Perfect Stranger." The Drama is rated R.

• **Sopranos: Why We Can't Fugetaboutit**

In nine weeks, one of television's most beloved and influential programs will go out with a bang. That's right, the Sopranos will finally be calling it quits after two months worth of episodes, commencing Sunday or HBO.

• **Cruz Shines in Spanish "Volver"**

Let me start by saying I'm not a Penelope Cruz fan. Actually, she has been pretty terrible in just about every Hollywood movie I have ever seen her in: "Sahara," "Vanilla Sky," "All the Pretty Horses," and the less said about "Captain Corelli's Mandolin," the better.

• **Review: Blades of Glory**

In "Blades of Glory," the actor Jon Heder may have ditched his "Napoleon Dynamite" curls, but he still knows how to take a cue from his hair--in this case, a frosted '70s princess mop that makes him look like Sandy Duncan with a touch of Marcia Wallace on the old Bob Newhart show.

• **Sitcoms: Andy Richter P.I.**

A few years back, former Conan O'Brien sidekick Andy Richter starred in a sitcom called Andy Richter Controls the Universe.

• **Review: Children of Men**

"Children of Men" is a harrowing, amazing film.

• **Review: Blood Diamond**

With Forest Whitaker's career-defining performance as Idi Amin in the "Last King of Scotland," Leonardo DiCaprio never really had a chance of winning the Best Actor Oscar this year.

• **Pride, the Audacity of Hope**

Given the force and directness of most of his

characters, Terrence Howard has a way of catching you off guard with what a soft instrument his voice is. His gaze may be steady as a rock, but when he talks, there's a hint of a quaver--almost a shadow memory of tears.

• **Let Podcasts be Your NY Tourguide**

There are dozens of New York-centric audio podcasts on the web.

• **Latest Bond Movie Too Glum**

When Daniel Craig was announced as the new James Bond last year, the 007 faithful over in Britain got their knickers into quite a twist.

• **Movie Review: 'Namesake'**

"The Namesake," the new movie from Mira Nair, who made "Monsoon Wedding," is one of those literary adaptations that's sprawling and episodic and crammed with incidents.

• **Mark Wahlberg Stars in "Shooter"**

Bob Lee Swagger (Mark Wahlberg) a retired Military Sniper is called back to duty after discovering a plot to kill the president. Framed for the attempt, he goes on a hunt to find the real killer, and find out who set him up, and why. "Shooter" is rated R.

• **FX's Newest Drama: The Riches**

It has to be one of the most absurd and disturbing television images in recent memory. Speaking about the sight of Minnie Driver sporting cornrows, but there she is playing a recently-paroled hillbilly with a gangsta hairstyle on FX's newest drama, "The Riches."

• **'Borat' Pokes Fun at the U.S. of A**

Last winter, when Sascha Baron Cohen's 'Borat' hit theaters, audiences were split into two camps: those who thought that Cohen's comic creation--an offensively naïve pseudo documentation from Kazakhstan whose fired off racist, anti-Semitic, and chauvinistic statements like an Archie Bunker howitzer, was hilarious. And then those who thought he was laughing not with us, but at us.

• **'Premonition' New in Theatres**

This weekend at the movies is 'Premonition': they had a dream marriage, until her worst nightmare came true.

• **The New, Crazy Pussycat Dolls Search**

What's happening in TV? Ever watch a show, marvel at how cheesy it is, then have to marvel at yourself for being unable to look away. That's how the feel is for the CW's new reality entry, the search for the next doll.

• **'The Departed' a Hit for Scorsese**

Martin Scorsese is no stranger to the mean streets of New York. In fact, he's walked them so many times that he's probably got shin splints. The irony is that it took a four-hour drive up I-95 for the Gotham director to recapture the energy and violent grace that's been missing from his films for the past decade.

• **'Zodiac' Dazzles a Terrorizing Myth**

"Zodiac" is David Fincher's vastly intricate and dazzling drama about the serial killer who terrorized the San Francisco Bay Area starting in 1969.

• **'300' Tells Battle of Thermopylae**

The year is 480 B.C., armored men face off. The film "300" retells the battle of Thermopylae.

• **Race All-Star Edition is a Winner**

Here's a look at what's happening in TV.

• **Review: 'For Your Consideration'**

Over the past few years, Christopher Guest and his

band of merry pranksters have had a spotless track record.

• **'Breach': A True-Life Thriller**

"Breach" is a true-life thriller about one of the most treasonous agents in the history of American espionage.

• **Vox Offers Bloggers Diversity**

If you think blogging is just for teenagers, then Vox, at Vox.com, could change your mind.

• **'Lost' Creates New Episodes**

It's a question fans have been asking for a few months now, has "Lost" lost it?

• **Jagger Dangerous in 'Performance'**

Looking at Mick Jagger now, still preening and mincing on stage like a geriatric peacock, it's almost hard to imagine him as he once was: dangerous.

• **Ralph Nader: 'An Unreasonable Man'**

Was the Ralph Nader who ran for president in 2000 and 2004 a cranky, ego-driven spoiler? Did he knowingly tip those elections to the Republicans and take a devil's-advocate delight in doing so?

• **Which 'White' MC is the 'Right' MC**

Most of VH1's celeb-reality shows bore (Hogan Knows Best), confuse (Shooting Sizemore) or depress (Anything Involving Flavor Flav). But the White Rapper Show, which features a bunch of white wannabe MC's, is just plain dope. (Hey, when in Rome, right?).

• **Cool Moves With Wii Smooth Move**

After 10 minutes of playing WarioWare: Smooth Moves, a new game for the Nintendo Wii, a questioner was asked whether the game's creators were simply having a laugh by getting the player to perform outlandish movements.

• **The Science of Sleep is a Snooze**

As spinal tap's David St. Hubbins once famously said: there's a fine line between clever and stupid. Well, there's a fine line between clever and annoying.

• **'Factory Girl' Toils Over Warhol**

The title character of "Factory Girl" is Edie Sedgwick, Andy Warhol's original superstar, played by Sienna Miller with spooky look-alike allure.

• **80s Flick: 'Looker' Now on DVD**

When most people think of Michael Crichton, they either think of him as the guy behind E.R., or as the author of sci-fi bestsellers like "Jurassic Park."

• **DVD Review: 'Crank'**

Depending on your sweet tooth for second-tier action movies, then you may or may not be the target audience of the pumped-up, knucklehead action movie "Crank".

• **'The Illusionist' Awes the Mind**

There were two movies about olde-timey magicians this year and the real trick was that both were pretty good.

• **Review: 'Snakes on a Plane'**

There's nothing uglier and more embarrassing in sports than when a basketball player on a breakaway goes in for a slam dunk and the ball bounces off the rim. Suddenly these overgrown giants look so small. Well, you could sum up "Snakes on a Plane" the same way.

• **From Cars to Casinos in 2006**

Here are my picks for the 10 best movies of 2006.

• **'Left Behind:' Good & Evil, Again**

Here's what's new in video games this week.

• **DVD Review: 'The Descent'**

Horror movies have never been kind to women. Ever since Dracula started sucking necks, women have been the designated victims.

• **No Sparks in ABC's 'Wildfire'**

It's a new year, which means it's time to try new things. So, in that spirit, I decided to check out the just-launched third season of ABC Family's "Wildfire."

• **'Dreamgirls' - From Heaven to Earth**

"Dreamgirls" is the rare movie musical with real rapture in it.

• **Will Smith In Poignant 'Pursuit'**

In "The Pursuit of Happyness," which is set in San Francisco in 1981, Will Smith doesn't just wear a few flecks of gray in his hair.

• **'Clerks II' a Dud**

Poor Kevin Smith. Clearly, the comic-book geek has higher aspirations than to keep returning to the lovable losers he first chronicled in his 1994 convenience-store comedy "Clerks."

• **It's a Wonderful Life**

Every year around this time, I take a few minutes of your time to talk about "It's a Wonderful Life", once again airing on NBC Christmas Eve.

• **Threadless Designs Personal Threads**

There is no shortage of online shops full of hip, quirky and retro t-shirts. However, none of them has more personality than threadless.com.

• **DVD Review: 'Little Miss Sunshine'**

It's the holidays. And what better time for a comedy about a family so dysfunctional that it'll make the folks you're related to seem like the Cleavers.

• **Review: 'A Star is Born'**

Maybe the best place to begin talking about the 1976 "A Star is Born" is Barbra Streisand's hair. How to put this nicely? It's a train wreck. It looks like Vidal Sassoon and Medusa had a love child and that child proceeded to puke on her head.

• **A Long Ride & Not Much Else**

The characters in 'The Nativity Story' speak in an accent that might be described as serious Bible movie-ese.

• **Meryl Wears Prada - and So Well**

Whether you were a fan of the chiffon-light novel or just fancy yourself a fashion insider who's never missed an episode of 'Project Runway,' there's only one reason to rent 'The Devil Wears Prada:" Meryl Streep.

• **DaVinci Code: Mediocre Blockbuster**

Is it possible for a movie to be a blockbuster even if nobody particularly likes it? Well, that is pretty much what happened earlier this year with "The DaVinci Code."

• **Bond Is Back and Better Than Ever**

Ever since Sean Connery left the series, James Bond has been little more than a jokey superhero in a dinner jacket.

• **'Heroes' Is Early Season Success**

I admit it: when I first saw the pilot episode of NBC's "Heroes," I said to myself, that will never make it, which just goes to show one thing: I have no superpowers when it comes to predicting the prospects of new television programs.

- **F.E.A.R. - a Paranormal Video Game**

Here's what's new in video games this week.

- **'Wordplay' = 8 Letters for 'Great'**

A few years ago, a little documentary about nerdy kids competing at the national spelling bee became a miniature sensation.

- **'Stranger Than Fiction' Isn't**

It used to be that when a comedian turned serious, he got sticky and sentimental. Now, thanks to Jim Carrey in "The Truman Show," the day the clown cried has given way to the day the clown went hip and minimalist and postmodern.

- **'Friday Night Lights' May Get Boot**

Sports dramas often do well at the box office. The sport of football alone has given us hits such as "Rudy," "Remember the Titans," "On Any Given Sunday," "North Dallas Forty," and "The Longest Yard"—twice!

- **'Body Heat' DVD Review**

Looking back on the 1940s, it seems like every week there was another great film noir coming out.

- **'Borat' Symbol of Post 9/11 World**

The bad-boy British prankster-comedian Sacha Baron Cohen has beady eyes offset by a smile that's like a wall of teeth, yet he disappears almost entirely inside his characters.

- **'Housewives' Showing Signs of Life**

When "Desperate Housewives" first came on the air, it was like a breath of fresh air.

- **'Documentary' Imagines Bush Death**

When I first heard about "Death of a President," a fake documentary that depicts the assassination of George W. Bush, I assumed that it would be a fashionably irresponsible piece of leftist wish-fulfillment.

- **'The Nine' an Intriguing New Drama**

The past two years have seen a glut of "Lost" rip-offs and wannabes: shows that present huge ensemble casts and even huger mysteries. The problem with most of them has been that the casts and mysteries simply weren't very interesting, and often seemed mysterious just for mystery's sake.

- **Nolan Makes Magic in 'The Prestige'**

In "The Prestige," an aggressively devious sleight-of-hand thriller directed by Christopher Nolan, the magic tricks are powered by currents of electricity and danger. The movie wants to fool your senses by ripping a hole in reality, and it does so with a busy, at times brutal single-mindedness.

- **'Galactica' Is Great Drama**

There's a stigma around science fiction. While there is a core of fans who are out of this world for anything that is out of this world, there is also a large segment of the population who want nothing to do with a genre famous for sticking people in funky alien costumes.

- **Body Double: Kinky in a Kooky Way**

Being a Brian DePalma fan can be frustrating.

- **'Evil' Shines Harsh Light on Abuse**

"Deliver Us from Evil" is a brilliant and psychologically transfixing documentary about child sex abuse within the Catholic Church.

- **'Ugly Betty' Is Stylish Fun**

I have never watched a telenovela. Heck, I have a hard enough time just saying the damn word. So I was a little confused at what to expect with ABC's new "Ugly

Betty," airing on Thursday nights at 8.

• **John Huston's First Masterpiece**

Of all the existential loners, chain-smoking tough guys and Bacall-wooing leading men Humphrey Bogart played, my favorite has always been his turn as private eye Sam Spade in 1941's "The Maltese Falcon."

• **'Old Joy' Full of Subtle Pleasure**

Most movies spell everything out for you, but not the acclaimed new independent film "Old Joy."

• **'Studio 60' Not Sorkin's Best**

I'm a big Aaron Sorkin fan. His short-lived ABC comedy "Sports Night" was both humorous and heartfelt, and "The West Wing" crackled with energy and excitement. So I was naturally jazzed when his return to television was announced in the form of NBC's "Studio 60 on the Sunset Strip."

• **Building the Perfect Star Wars Game**

Re-living the original "Star Wars" trilogy through Lego bricks doesn't sound like all that much fun. It's corny, and childish, but then again so is the franchise and maybe that's one reason why "Lego Star Wars 2" has blasted to the top of sales charts.

• **No More 'Furious' Sequels, Vin!**

How on earth did the the silly Vin Diesel hot-rod saga "The Fast and The Furious" manage to squeeze out not one, but two sequels?

• **Romanticism of the Radical: Lennon**

"The U.S. vs. John Lennon" is the easy-listening version of a firebrand documentary.

• **'Men in Trees' Is Charming**

I'm not a woman. At least last time I checked. So I'm guessing that I am not the target audience for ABC's new dramedy "Men in Trees," airing Friday nights at 9.

• **Test Drive This Game's Online Play**

When it comes to driving games, you've got your pick of great franchises, from "Gran Turismo" to "Burnout Revenge" to "Midnight Club." Get ready to add a new title to the list: "Test Drive Unlimited."

• **'Hart to Hart' Was Frothy, But Fun**

When Midas-like TV producer Aaron Spelling passed away recently, most of the tributes ticked off the dozens of hit shows he launched: "Charlie's Angels," "Dynasty," "The Love Boat."

• **'Black Dahlia' Not De Palma's Best**

I'm always happy, at least in theory, when Brian de Palma puts aside his showy, candid-camera virtuosity and goes back to making an honest-to-God movie. So should be glad that he has now made "The Black Dahlia."

• **'The Wire' Continues Great Run**

If you haven't watched "The Wire," I am going to tell you something surprising. Don't. Do not start watching season four of the HBO drama.

• **This PSP Game is a Loco Original**

The star of "Loco Roco" is a jelly blob. That should give you a clue about just how unconventional this PlayStation Portable game is.

• **Man Vs. Bureaucracy Equals 'Brazil'**

For most people, Terry Gilliam is an acquired taste.

• **'Warhol' Is Splendid Documentary**

"Andy Warhol: A Documentary Film," which is playing at the Film Forum, is Ric Burns' splendid, searching portrait of the legendary pop artist.

**• 'Vanished' Probably Will**

Everyone loves a mystery. And when I say everyone, I mean network executives.

**• Site Targets Undead Demographic**

If you want to get the latest news, weather and sports, tune into R News, but if you want breaking news about the zombie hoards that are munching their way across the USA, go to [swarmwatch.com](http://swarmwatch.com). This faux news website is a marketing ploy made for the upcoming Xbox 360 video game "Dead Rising."

**• Great Film Noir On DVD**

When most people think of Fred MacMurray, it's as the squeaky clean pipe-and-slippers dad from TV's "My Three Sons."

**• A Film That Rates the Ratings Board**

"This Film Is Not Yet Rated" is Kirby Dick's cunningly outraged documentary about the Motion Picture Association of America and its infamous, dogged ratings board.

**• The Verdict Is in on 'Justice'**

With all the wannabe conspiracy and cryptic mystery shows starting up this fall, it actually is somewhat refreshing to have a competent drama among them that ends when it's supposed to end—after 60 minutes. A drama like Fox's "Justice," airing on Wednesday nights at 9.

**• 'Idlewild' Lands with a New Star**

"Idlewild" is a madly soulful and enjoyable period musical starring the two members of Outkast.

**• VH1 Show Really Hits Bottom**

We have finally scraped the bottom of the barrel.

**• Threadless Designs Personal Threads**

There is no shortage of online shops full of hip, quirky and retro t-shirts. However, none of them has more personality than [threadless.com](http://threadless.com).

**• Video Review: The Simpsons**

"The Simpsons" is arguably the best TV show ever made and season eight is now out in a four-disc box set.

**• 'Factotum,' or the Life of Bukowski**

A man on a bender may drift from bar stool to alleyway staring into his whiskey glass, but to him that's not decadence. It's adventure—a reason for living.

**• 'Runway' Reaps What It Sews**

I can't stitch. I don't know how to sew. And when it comes to fashion, I'm as clueless as an Alicia Silverstone movie.

**• Snakes on a Website!**

The cheesiest, most talked-about movie of the summer opened last week and if you've been within mouse reach of the Internet for the last six months, you know that it's called "Snakes on a Plane."

**• 'Brotherhood' Is All in the Family**

Don't look now, but I'm watching Showtime! I know, it's shocking, but true.

**• Sing for Your Supper on Singshot**

Take a social networking portal like MySpace or Friendster, crossbreed it with karaoke and what do you get? The answer: a lot of off-key warbling and Singshot online at [singshot.com](http://singshot.com).

**• Not Enough Lee in 'Inside Man'**

Spike Lee has made 15 or so films since his 1989 breakout film, "She's Gotta Have It."

- **'WTC' Gets Up Close and Personal**

Early on, Oliver Stone's "World Trade Center" conjures some of the shock and terror of Sept. 11, 2001.

- **A Bit of Hitchcock, French Style**

By now, you'd think that men in movies would stop falling for femme fatales. You'd think they'd recognize the signs.

- **'Star' Wacky, Wild, Rockin' Ride**

Are you ready to rock? I saaaaaaaaaaaaaaid, are you ready to rock?

- **Online Sites Let You Pay by Phone**

Finding a pocket for every gadget you own becomes especially difficult during the summer months. Well now you can leave your wallet at home and pay for things using your cell phone instead.

- **Yes, Another Comic Book Adaptation**

I've had just about enough of movies adapted from comic books.

- **'Miami Vice' Is Way Past Cool**

When "Miami Vice" was big in the '80s. Like other fans I got off on the pastel rock & roll macho coolness. "Miami Vice," the movie, doesn't have a single pastel, and there's not a lot of rock & roll either.

- **'Final Destination 3' and Counting**

In case you missed the first two installments, "Final Destination 3" is the modern megaplex equivalent of "The Omen" and its sequels.

- **With Clerks II, the Sequel Is Equal**

If you're a fan of "Clerks," Kevin Smith's 1994 convenience-store slacker comedy, you'll probably want to see "Clerks II." Yet even devotees of the Smith universe have a right to be wary of a "Clerks" sequel.

- **'Blade' Is a Pretty Sharp Series**

Delta House. Fast Times. Ferris Bueller. These are just a few of the less than memorable TV series that were adapted from feature films.

- **You, Me and Dupree**

It is not hard to see why Owen Wilson is a star. A cross between a valley boy stoner and a corporate weasel, he is the first actor of his generation to turn innocence into sleaze, and then back into innocence again.

- **Deadwood Series Comes to an End**

I only understand about, oh, 55 percent of what happens on HBO's Deadwood, but apparently my ignorance is bliss because dagnabit if the David Milch western is not one of my favorite programs on television.

- **Replacing Literature Washed Away**

Paperbacks and water don't mix. One of the enduring tragedies of Hurricane Katrina is that several public libraries lost entire collections to the storm.

- **'Scanner' Trippy, But Maddening**

Richard Linklater's trippy and sinister "A Scanner Darkly" might be described as an animated feature, only the animation consists of live action that's been painstakingly drawn over.

- **'Saved' Hero Not Worth Saving**

Ten years ago, Tom Everett Scott starred in Tom Hanks' "That Thing You Do" and appeared ready to take over the world. Now, he's trying to save it.

- **Site Predicts the Friendliest Skies**

Air travel is more expensive than ever. The dizzying number of online flight discounters and cheap ticket

dealers has only made the process more confusing. Today you'll be quoted one price, tomorrow something different.

• **Depp Fans Love Him No Matter What**

Most actors give either good performances or bad performances.

• **Too Many Questions, Few Answers**

When you watch a torn-from-the-headlines docudrama there's an easy way to judge whether it works as a movie: Do you really feel like you're seeing the story behind the headlines, or does the film just make you long for the depth and detail of an actual news report?

• **The Pack Is Back in 'Entourage'**

The boys of summer are back in full swing. That's because Vincent Chase is now a bona fide superstar, thanks to the monster success of "Aquaman." If you have no idea who or what I'm talking about, then you obviously don't watch HBO's "Entourage."

• **The World (Cup) Wide Web**

Unless you've had your head buried in a pitching mound lately, you know that the World Cup is underway. Start your attacking plan at [fifaworldcup.yahoo.com](http://fifaworldcup.yahoo.com).

• **'Windfall' Not a Winning Ticket**

The premise of NBC's new summer drama "Windfall" is that a bunch of friends and neighbors pool their money together to buy a group of lottery tickets, and—whaddya know?—they win a gazillion dollars.

• **Cohen's 'Your Man' in Tribute Flick**

I'm not usually a big fan of tribute concerts. You listen to a bunch of people doing songs by an artist you love, and you end up wishing the songs were being performed by...the original artist. But "Leonard Cohen: I'm Your Man" is a glorious exception.

• **Sample the History of the Moog**

Bob Moog, inventor of the Moog synthesizer, passed away in 2005, but his legacy lives on. This week marks the 3rd annual Moogfest in New York City. At [moogfest.net](http://moogfest.net), you can find out about the performers, including DJ Logic, Roger O'Donnell from the Cure and Keith Emerson of ELP.

• **'Nacho Libre' Not So Funny**

We've all seen comedies that just sat there on screen, only to play a little funnier six months later on late-night cable. "Nacho Libre" looks like that sort of movie.

• **Reality TV Show Is Pretty Unreal**

How real is reality television? It's a question that has been posed countless times ever since "Survivor" first hit the air six years ago.

• **The Name is Pong. Ping Pong.**

The creators of "Grand Theft Auto: San Andreas" and "The Warriors" have just released their newest game. So you're probably expecting a gritty urban game centered on gang violence and scantily clad women. But you're in for a surprise.

• **No Drama, Much Charm in 'Prairie'**

"A Prairie Home Companion" is a minor bauble of a Robert Altman movie, a lightly fictionalized version of Garrison Keillor's fabled Public Radio variety show.

• **Critics Choose Video Game Elites**

The video game industry descends on Los Angeles every year to unveil the titles that will be on everyone's wish list this holiday season and into 2007.

• **'The Break-Up' Isn't Much Fun**

"The Break-Up" is a synthetically hostile cartoon of a romantic comedy. Basically, it's "Friends" meets "The War of the Roses."

#### • **'Falcon Beach' Is All Wet**

If I told you that there was a new beach-set series on ABC Family called "Falcon Beach" airing Sunday nights, the debut episode of which started with a shot of women in bikinis running around with water guns, continued into a biker bar where we met a shady dude named "Mook," and finished up with some kid jumping off of a water tower in a drugged out haze, your first reaction would probably be something along the lines of..."clear my calendar on Sunday nights!"

#### • **Welcome to the World of Tomorrow!**

The science fiction legend Arthur C. Clark once said, "the future isn't what it used to be." The World of Tomorrow website at <http://www.uwm.edu/~sbalcott/research> proves it.

#### • **'Rescue Me' Opens Third Season**

When Denis Leary's fire fighting drama "Rescue Me" first appeared on FX in the summer of 2004, the show had a unique way of mixing heart wrenching story lines with humor.

#### • **Gore's 'Truth' Confronts Skeptics**

"An Inconvenient Truth" can be described in five of the scariest words ever to confront moviegoers: A documentary starring Al Gore. Is your heart still functioning?

#### • **Explore an Interactive War Memorial**

With the number of U.S. Service members who have died in Iraq and Afghanistan reaching above 2,000 casualties, it is hard to know how to properly recognize all of them. Faces of the Fallen, at <http://projects.washingtonpost.com/fallen/>, is a good start.

#### • **'Lost' Has Found a Host of Fans**

Those who don't learn from their mistakes are doomed to repeat them. That sort of explains why the Knicks are still the laughingstock of the NBA, but it also could be part of the reason why "Lost" has turned into the best drama on network television.

#### • **Munich Now Out on DVD**

A lot of big name directors talk about making one serious movie for themselves for every soul-less commercial film they crank out for a big studio, but aside from Steven Spielberg, not too many actually follow through.

#### • **A Dull Deciphering of 'Da Vinci'**

Dan Brown's theological scavenger-hunt mystery nove "The Da Vinci Code" may be the pop version of a nove of ideas, but that doesn't mean the ideas don't pop.

#### • **A Gold Mine of Mockable Material**

Back when he was on "The Daily Show," Stephen Colbert made us laugh.

#### • **Lohan's Appeal Can't Save 'Luck'**

It's tough to be a star in the age of supercharged ultra-gossip.

#### • **YouTube Hosts Your Home Movies**

Viral videos are short clips usually created by amateurs that become hot properties via the internet. Although these have been circulating online for years, the nexus of viral video right now is at [youtube.com](http://youtube.com).

#### • **Spelling Not So Notorious in Sitcom**

It's the old Hollywood trick. When everyone stops

taking you seriously, you only have one choice—do the same.

• **'Match Point' Not the Best of Allen**

When "Match Point" hit theaters earlier this year, critics hailed it as the return of Woody Allen.

• **Surfing on the Earth-Friendly Web**

The average American produces 10 tons of greenhouse gasses per year, but sometimes driving less or recycling more is not an option.

• **Nicholson's The Passenger on DVD**

It's hard to have a better run as an actor than Jack Nicholson's in the early '70s.

• **'M: I-3' Is a Thrilling Cruise**

In "Mission: Impossible 3", Tom Cruise scurries across a freeway bridge that's been blasted to smithereens, facing down a rogue fighter jet as it launches missiles right at him.

• **Game Spawns Online Film Festival**

In the new PC video game called "The Movies," you are a mogul who builds a studio, juggles celebrity talent and even directs and edits hit films. Now at [chrysler.movies.lionhead.com](http://chrysler.movies.lionhead.com), you can take part in the equivalent of the Cannes Film Festival for movies made on the game.

• **'United 93': To See or Not to See?**

Just about everyone I know is scared to see "United 93." The uneasiness is understandable.

• **'Hard Candy' Is Tough to Swallow**

Every day, it seems, brings another report of an adult who uses the Internet to seduce the underaged, only to wind up ensnared by the cops.

• **"Brain Age" Prevents Brain Drain?**

I'm 35-years old, but my brain is only 31. That is according to the new Nintendo DS video game "Brain Age." It is based on the research of neuroscientist Ryuta Kawashima, who has found that certain activities stimulate the prefrontal cortex of the brain.

• **Brokeback Out on DVD**

"Brokeback Mountain" is wonderful movie, touching, heartbreaking, and beautiful to look at.

• **'Bettie Page' Frisky, Fascinating**

"The Notorious Bettie Page" is Mary Harron's frisky and fascinating biopic about the legendary '50s pinup.

• **Playing Games with Clothes**

The shirt I am wearing has a secret code in it. You won't be able to decipher it on screen, but pay a visit to [edoclaundry.com](http://edoclaundry.com) to learn more about this mysterious line of apparel that mixes fashion, technology and gaming.

• **Hoskins a Chameleon in 80's Role**

Blue-collar British actor Bob Hoskins has played his share of cockney tough guys over the years.

• **'Slevin' Raises Many Questions**

"Lucky Number Slevin" is one of those post-"Pulp Fiction," scrambled-time-frame, hoodwink-the-audience movies.

• **A New Life in the Web of Ghosts**

The album was conceived as a series of recordings made by an imaginary culture and unearthed in the California desert. But at [www.bushofghosts.wmg.com](http://www.bushofghosts.wmg.com), you'll discover that the collaboration between Brian Eno and David Byrne, titled "My Life in the Bush of Ghosts," instead became a seminal album that pioneered the use of found sound vocals and ethnic

beats.

• **Hooked on Jeff Daniels' Performance**

Remember how all anyone could talk about around Oscar time last year was how Paul Giamatti got snubbed by not being nominated for "Sideways"?

• **'Basic Instinct 2' Lacking Tension**

In "Basic Instinct 2," Sharon Stone successfully revives her performance as Catherine Tramell, the mocking vamp who's cold even when she's in heat, who seduces men by turning their desire against them.

• **And He Said, Let There be Pasta!**

Would you believe me if I said that an invisible and undetectable Flying Spaghetti Monster created the universe?

• **Seymour Shows his Stuff**

If you haven't yet seen why Philip Seymour Hoffman won this year's best actor Oscar, you're in luck. Capote is now out on DVD.

• **Shepard's Back in Redemptive Tale**

Sam Shepard, with his snaggle-toothed glamour, is just about the only actor of his generation who can still wear a cowboy hat that looks as if it utterly belongs on his grizzled head.

• **Sample the Sounds of New York City**

Visitors to New York City are usually so overwhelmed by the sights that they forget to listen to the sounds. Well at Folk Songs for the Five Points, online at [tenement.org/folksongs](http://tenement.org/folksongs), you can take your ears on a tour of the lower east side of Manhattan.

• **Good Night & Good Luck Now on DVD**

Talk all you want about "Crash" and "Brokeback Mountain", this really has been George Clooney's year. Last week he won the best supporting actor Oscar for his performance in "Syriana".

• **'Vendetta' Futuristic and Timely**

"V for Vendetta" is a bombs-away comic book avenger fantasy set in a future fascist Britain that draws elements from Orwell's "1984," but mostly from the post-9/11 world.

• **Walk the Line out on Video**

Hollywood biopics are like that packaged chili mix you buy in the supermarket.

• **'Block Party' Is Music for the Ears**

Dave Chappelle's "Block Party" is perhaps the first concert movie since "Stop Making Sense" to give you a blissful buzz.

• **Web Game Makes Custom Movies**

Interactive filmmaking has great potential, but mostly for advertisers. For the latest in commercial video remixing, head to [anyfilms.net](http://anyfilms.net).

• **Alec Guinness Shines in old Flick**

Most people under 40 best know Alec Guinness as Obi-Won Kenobi.

• **New Sitcom is "Courting" Disaster**

Jenna Elfman rose to fame playing a hippy trippy hottie on "Dharma and Greg." She was a free-spirited goofball married to an uptight suit. Now, in her newest comedy, "Courting Alex," which airs on CBS, she has flipped the script.

• **President's Men out on DVD**

Last year, when "Vanity Fair" revealed the identity of Deep Throat as former FBI man Mark Felt, it put to rest one of the greatest mysteries of the 20th century.

**• 'Quick Change' A Good Watch on DVD**

If New York City were a Hollywood actor, it would be settling into its boring old man phase right now: retired, with a bum knee and yelling at the kids to get off its lawn.

**• Gamemaker Site Hosts Fan Art**

Each year, the creators of the smash hit videogame "Grand Theft Auto" hold a digital media competition. The winners of the 4th Rockstar Games Upload contest are on the web at [rockstargames.com/upload](http://rockstargames.com/upload) and include short films, deejay mixes, website designs and even short fiction.

**• Bowie Movie Released on DVD**

By the mid-70s David Bowie wasn't in a good place. It was around that time that Nicolas Roeg, approached Bowie to star in "The Man Who Fell to Earth" now released on DVD.

**• Website Explores Rejected Ads**

Advertising is considered good when it is racy, provocative and over-the-top. So what does it take to get an advertisement banned?

**• Beauty and The Geek - Nerds Rule**

How many times can we laugh at blond bimbos and nerdius maximus?

**• Mixing It Up with Cyber-Cocktails**

It is doubtful that bartenders will ever go out of business because of the web, but it sure does make their job harder.

**• Constant Gardner Out on DVD**

Now that we've made it to 2006, 2005 in the rearview mirror is looking like the most political year in Hollywood since the late '60s.

**• U.S. Wars Depicted in Why We Fight**

Even if you know that the phrase "military-industrial complex" was first uttered in 1961, during the final televised speech of Dwight David Eisenhower's presidency, it's still a revelation to see that speech in Eugene Jarecki's passionate and sobering documentary why we fight.

**• Examine Space Dust from Home**

On January 15, the spacecraft Stardust returned to Earth after completing its 7 year journey to collect interstellar dust and comet particles.

**• McAdams Only Good Thing in Redeye**

In case you haven't been near a multiplex lately, Rachel McAdams is Hollywood's latest it girl.

**• Albert Brooks Film Looks For Comedy**

Albert Brooks used to be a master at making his audience squirm with laughter.

**• The Net Mines Lost TV Treasure**

One thing I've discovered in reviewing websites over the years: it's a great place for TV nostalgia.

**• What's New & Old in DVD**

Director Sam Peckinpah was famous for his bloody, slow-motion shoot-outs and low life characters backed up against the wall in the old west.

**• Fairy Tale Remade in 'Hoodwinked'**

Hoodwinked, a fast and furious crackpot skewering of little red riding hood, is reminiscent of a number of other digitally animated fractured fairytales.

**• Take a Trip into DNA**

If you have brown eyes and your mate has blue eyes, what color are your children's eyes likely to be?

• **Tops in Videos for 2005**

The stats are in but not many will be surprised at the five biggest money-making videos for 2005.

• **Exploitation Emulated in 'Hostel'**

Now it's more or less the only element, with the fear of death replaced by the fear of torture--a fate worse than death.

• **Vince Vaughn Shines in 'Crashers'**

It's amazing what Vince Vaughn has been able to do to his career in the past few years.



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