

hot summer flicks

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*There's a lot to be said for
spending a summer in the dark.*



More blockbuster movies than you can throw a bad cliché at arrive in theaters beginning Memorial Day and cease only when the last beachcomber folds an umbrella on the shore.

Major studios will release something for everyone — or at least something for everyone between 18 and 25, and male. Here's a list of potential blockbusters:

"Alien³" (20th Century)

No sidekick this time for Sigourney Weaver, as Weaver sheds youngster Newt from "Aliens" along with most of her hair. In the third installment to Ridley Scott's 1980 original fright spectacular, Weaver returns as Ripley, a lone warrior against acid-dripping aliens. With David Fincher behind the camera, it's not clear whether "Alien³" will contain the same action pace as its predecessor, but space movies are neat anyway.



Glover
and Gibson:
The new dynamic duo?

"Batman Returns" (Warner Bros.)

Michael Keaton reprises his role as the Caped Crusader just three years after the original film set new attendance records. Michelle Pfeiffer plays Catwoman and Danny DeVito plays the Penguin. Already, T-shirts, mugs and other related items line store shelves waiting for poor little boys and girls to beg their parents for them. If the studio can stir up as large a media buzz as it did for "Batman," it really makes little difference how good the movie is.

"Lethal Weapon 3" (Warner Bros.)

Sequels, sequels, sequels. Is there nothing else? Mel Gibson and Danny Glover play Mr. Hotshot and Mr.

Straightlaced in the third installment of cops chasing criminals, "Lethal Weapon" was an exciting action flick, but "Lethal Weapon 2" sunk to new depths of tedium. Let's hope this will at least fall somewhere in between.

"Patriot Games" (Paramount Pictures)

Harrison Ford replaces Alec Baldwin as Jack Ryan, the CIA agent who saved the world, and more importantly, Sean Connery, in "Hunt for Red October." In the post Cold War era, with no evil empire to burden, international terrorism endangers Ryan, et al. This is the second of Tom Clancy's bestsellers to make it to the big screen, and Ford will reportedly play Ryan twice more in future films.

"Twin Peaks: Fire Walks with Me" (New Line Cinema)

Master of the bizarre, David Lynch returns to the Pacific Northwest with Kyle MacLachlan, John Chen, Michael Ontkean, David Bowie and other eccentrics to tow it decide, once and for all, what led to Laura Palmer's murder. Reacquaint yourself with homemade apple pie. I wonder if we'll finally get to meet Diane.

"Cool World" (Paramount Pictures)

Gabriel Byrne trades life in "Miller's Crossing" for life in the two-dimensional cartoon world of his character Jack Deeb in this expensive-looking erotic adventure. Kim Basinger and Brad Pitt co-star as lively doodles, fighting over Deeb's 'toon world destiny. Ralph Bakshi, who worked on animated features, "The Lord of the Rings," "Heavy Traffic" and "Fritz the Cat," directs.

"Far and Away" (Universal)

Last year Kevin Costner attempted an English accent and failed, or should we say flailed. Now Tom Cruise plays an Irish tenant farmer in this Ron Howard historical epic. Filmed in

Panavision Super 70 — a premium film gauge — the spectacle and sheer largeness may save this one because lead actress Nicole Kidman certainly cannot. But the real-life marrieds might produce some sparks.

"The Last of the Mohicans" (20th Century)

In this retelling of James Fenimore Cooper's famous novel, England and France, with the aid of Native American forces, wage a fierce war for a continent neither is destined to control. There's a little sidelight as well. Amidst all the turmoil, Hawkeye, a frontiersman raised by Mohicans, gets involved with Cora Munro, the daughter of a British officer.

"Single White Female" (Columbia Pictures)

Barbet Schroeder, the Oscar-nominated director of "Reversal of Fortune," directs this psychological thriller patterned after a classic like "Rosemary's Baby." Bridget Fonda and Jennifer Jason Leigh continue their slew of chunky role-picking expertise playing women in a New York apartment. Screenwriter Don Roos adapted John Lutz's novel "SWF Seeks Same."

"Honey, I Blew Up the Baby" (Walt Disney Pictures)

Ultra-nerd Wayne Szalinski (Rick Moranis) enlarges his baby when the tyke wanders in front of Wayne's latest experiment. The sequel to 1989's sleeper hit "Honey, I Shrank the Kids," this will surely contain as many intriguing moments as the first. With a King Kong-size child, can you imagine the drool?

"Whispers in the Dark" (Paramount Pictures)

Hot off the disempowering "Hand that Rocks the Cradle," and the empowering "Jungle Fever," Annabella Sciorra plays a psychiatrist befuddled over a patient's death. The death leads to a series of suspenseful discoveries and events. With a critical and a financial success under the belt, Sciorra can choose from just about anything. Let's hope she picked well.

"Boomerang" (Paramount Pictures)

Reginald Hudlin, one of the brothers behind "House Party," directs this comedy from an Eddie Murphy story. Murphy, Robin Givens and Grace Jones star, with Murphy as a cosmetic firm executive who falls in love, only to go unrequited. This film is the ultimate in role reversal plots with the man, Murphy, getting jerked around by the woman. Sweet justice ladies.

"Diggstown" (MGM)

Gabe Caine (James Woods) practices short cons trying to pull off the big con with the help of Oliver Platt — the egomaniac from "Flatliners" — and



Givens and Murphy: Who's dumping whom?

Bruce Dern. This film looks clichéd on paper, with the evidence of "Grifters" and "The Sting," it won't last in the summer market.

"Honeymoon in Vegas" (Columbia Pictures)

Nicholas Cage and Sara Jessica Parker, star in this comedy written and directed by Andrew Bergman. Cage plays a private detective who overcomes his fear of commitment long

See Hot, Page 14