

# Coming Soon... • Cameron Crowe Says Everything SNL's Rob Schneider • New Video Releases

By PAUL RODES

Indiana Daily Student, Indiana U.

Movie watchers are about to witness the unveiling of the odd collection of Hollywood leftovers traditionally sandwiched between summer blockbusters and dramatic Christmas offerings.

This year's assortment is typical: formula-fied comedies, quickly produced thrillers, and the occasional low-key drama make up the bulk of the menu, with a rare gem thrown in to keep us interested.

Here's a look at some of the upcoming releases:

## The Gun in Betty Lou's Handbag (Touchstone)

In what is undoubtedly the most pathetic premise since *Stop, or My Mom Will Shoot*, small-town librarian Penelope Ann Miller confesses to a murder she didn't commit in hopes of gaining the attention of her husband. Inevitably, the victim secretly was a mobster, and the picture quickly degenerates into one of those idiotic "regular-folks-versus-the-mob" comedies that have somehow managed to become all the rage in Hollywood today.

In the end, of course, Miller will solve the crime, catch the mob boss and prove to her husband that she's a worthwhile woman after all. There. I just saved you seven bucks.

## Don't Rock the Boat (Touchstone)

Martin Short plays an over-stressed yuppie dad who presides over an over-stressed yuppie family. When a rich uncle dies and leaves them a 50-foot sailboat, they all have dreams of the good life until they actually see the rustbucket. Just when all is thought lost, along comes Kurt Russell as a grizzled, irreverent skipper, to shake up the family and teach them how to enjoy life as it comes. Sort of a *What About Bob* at sea. This won't be too original, but it may be worth watching just to see Russell—in dreadlocks.



## Single White Female (Columbia)

A psychological thriller set in New York and using the old psycho-in-the-personals-column plot, this easily could be another cheesy slasher movie. But director Barbara Shroeder and her cast, including Bridget Fonda and Jennifer Jason Leigh, have higher aims.

## Mr. Baseball (Universal)

This is the baseball movie Tom Selleck always said he wanted to make. In it he plays an aging, rambunctious superstar who has been around the bases a few more times than his old body can stand. Joining up with a Japanese team in an effort to extend his flagging career, Selleck butts heads with a strict new manager, falls in love with a beautiful young woman and (of course) steers his new team to the pennant.

## Sneakers (Universal)

Leading man Robert Redford, playing the boss of a shadowy team of high-tech security agents, is supported by a diverse crew including Dan Akroyd, Ben Kingsley,

River Phoenix and Sidney Poitier.

The rather uninspiring plot has our pals blackmailed by government agents into helping them out in a top-secret operation. Not the stuff of legends, perhaps, but the interplay of these three generations of actors could in itself be worth the price of admission.

## Mr. Saturday Night (Columbia)

Billy Crystal's love of the old-style stand up comics of his youth has been an enduring theme in much of his work. So it's not



surprising Crystal's directing debut should be the bittersweet story of the life of just such a comic. Crystal stars as Buddy Young Jr., and the film follows the ups and downs of his 50-year career. With a subject so close to his heart, Crystal can become disastrously mawkish and sentimental, as he was in *Memories of Me*. His talent may just pull him through this one.

## Whispers in the Dark (Paramount)

Ever since Ingrid Bergman went from head shrinking to sleuthing in Hitchcock's *Spellbound*, Hollywood can't shake its love of psychiatrist thrillers. This time it's Annabella Sciorra as the doctor-turned-detective after one of her psychiatric patients is found murdered. Could Sciorra's mysterious new lover be the culprit? Your guess is as good as mine. This type of movie rarely fails to be at least minimally entertaining.

## Bob Roberts (Paramount)

Tim Robbins' newest creation is likely to be the most ludicrously outrageous folk-hero politician in the country since Ross Perot. Fresh from his triumph in *The Player*, Robbins stars in his directorial debut as a right-wing folk singer turned politician whose motto is: "Ask not what you can do for your country; ask what you can do for yourself." A versatile and intelligent performer, Robbins is one of the hottest properties in Hollywood right now. This is a project that could launch his career to new heights.

## on the set

With a cast of folks like Leslie Nielsen, Rob Schneider and Tone Loc, it probably won't be a huge surprise when *Surf Warriors*, a film in the making for New Line Cinema, doesn't win the Academy Award for best picture. But with this cast, there will be more one-liners than most filmgoers can handle in a given lifetime.



Schneider, famous for his role as "copy man" on *Saturday Night Live*, plays Iggy, the tagalong friend of Ernie Reyes Jr.'s Johnny, a surfer who learns he's a prince. Prince Johnny must travel to Patu-San, a fictional island in the South China Seas, to overthrow the evil Colonel Chi, played by Leslie Nielsen. "When I first read the script it was a little kid movie. There were no jokes," Schneider says. "I thought this character Iggy had a lot of potential to be really funny if played like a Bob Hope road movie." During filming, Schneider says he gave comedy tips to other actors while they advised him on acting. "Nobody has the balls to tell me I'm not funny," Schneider says. "It's not bruising any egos to give each other notes," he says, sporting carrot-top, bleached-orange hair. On his popularity on *SNL*, Schneider says he is enjoying a lot of the success of his predecessors. "It's very difficult to be fresh. I'm

extremely grateful to the original cast," he says. "I think we're still riding on their coattails. We learn a lot from them." ■ Toni Sciacqua, *Daily Trojan*, U. of Southern California

## video calendar

A brief look at August-September releases

**Until the End of the World**, Warner Brothers, Aug. 5; **Prince of Tides** Columbia, Aug. 5; **Terminator 2**, Live, Aug. 5; **Till Death Do Us Part**, Aug. 5; **Wayne's World**, Paramount, Aug. 12; **Meatballs 4**, HBO, Aug. 12; **Wild Orchid 2**, Columbia, Aug. 8; **Memoirs of an Invisible Man**, Warner Bros., Aug. 19; **Medicine Man**, Disney, Aug. 19; **I Posed for Playboy**, Republic, Aug. 20; **Fried Green Tomatoes**, MCA, Aug. 20; **White Men Can't Jump**, 20th Century Fox, Aug. 20; **Final Analysis**, Warner Bros., Aug. 26; **Lawnmower Man**, Columbia, Aug. 26; **Sorority House Massacre 2**, New Horizons Home Video, Aug. 27; **American Me**, MCA, Aug. 27; **Mambo Kings**, Warner Bros., Sept. 2; **Once Upon a Crime**, MGM, Sept. 2; **My Grandpa is a Vampire**, Republic, Sept. 3; **Ladybugs**, Paramount, Sept. 3; **Fatal Instinct**, Columbia, Sept. 9; **Ernest Scared Stupid**, Disney, Sept. 9.

## quotable

"I don't believe that the world is full of popular people and nerds."

—Cameron Crowe, on why he writes about everyday people.

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