

Movie Previews • Leary: Smokin' on the Screen, Stage and Page • Bogdanovich's Next Picture Show • Video Releases

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Hollywood will try to ease our troubled brows by rolling these beauties onto our local screens, hoping we'll part with our tuition money. April showers do bring May flowers, so these showers are the set-up for blockbuster season next month.

Hot Shots Part Deux (Twentieth Century Fox)
Sequel season rings in with the follow-up adventure of Topper (Charlie Sheen). Tug Benson (Lloyd Bridges) is now president. (Fascinating coincidence. Were he and Bill separated at birth? Maybe *Spy* knows.) and he needs to send Topper after the men who went in to get the men who went in to get the men.... The first trailer's a scream, and part one was a high-grossing film. Sheen and Bridges seem to have their niche in comedy, and director Jim Abrahams is a veteran of this style of humor. Valeria Golino is back, and this one has Richard Crenna. No Stallone, though. Thank God.

Indecent Proposal (Paramount)
Robert Redford, Demi Moore and... Woody Harrelson? The production team from *Fatal Attraction* (producer Sherry Lansing and director Adrian Lyne) reunites to tell the story of a young couple (Harrelson, Moore) who is offered a million in cash if Moore will spend just one night with wealthy financier Redford. Can money buy love? Better yet, can audiences buy Harrelson in a semi-dramatic role? If not, it's going to turn into *White Men Can't Fly*! If so, then it should be *Fatal Addition* as the money pours in. Anyway you call it, it's the most anticipated movie of the spring.

Who's The Man? (New Line Cinema)
Yo, MTV Raps! arrives on the big screen. Rappers Dr. Dre and Ed Lover make their celluloid smash in this film by *MTV Raps* producer Ted Demme. The boys play two misfits who discover that their neighborhood is threatened by scandal. Can they handle such a problem all by themselves? Cameos by Kris Kross, Ice-T, Ice Cube, Sister Souljah and (I've got two words for you...) Denis Leary (among others) should save the day. If not, then at least it should be fun to dance to.



A million-dollar publicity blanket overshadows *El Mariachi's* meager production budget.

Mr. Jones (TriStar)
Lena Olin plays a shrink who starts to feel the heat for patient Richard Gere. Wasn't Gere on the opposite end of this plot in last year's *Final Analysis*? Maybe not. There should be some steam rising from this one. Olin has lit it up every time she's graced the silver, and this time shouldn't be any different. It just may be Gere's year, though. He's married to Cindy C., and he already paired off with Jodie Foster earlier this year.

This Boy's Life (Warner Bros.)
This is the adaptation of Tobias Wolff's acclaimed autobiography. Set in the '50s, mom Ellen Barkin is traveling cross country with her son to find their Holy Grail. They make their way to Washington state where she meets and falls in love with Dwight Hansen (Robert De Niro). Dwight offers to take Toby in, and they clash in every way imaginable. It's insolent child vs. tyrant step-parent. Michael Caton-Jones steps behind the camera fresh from *Doc Hollywood* and *Memphis Belle*. It's gonna be powerful, humorous and probably a little gut wrenching. With De Niro involved, it's probably an early Oscar contender.

The Crush (Warner Bros.)
Chalk it up as another entry into the psycho woman derby. Following Glenn Close, Rebecca DeMornay and Sharon Stone is newcomer Alicia Silverstone as a 14-year-old girl who develops a fatally psychotic crush on the occupant of her parents' guest home. Cary Elwes plays the tenant. Jennifer Rubin plays the woman he really likes. It won't win any awards for originality, but it may have enough juice to get the old hormones rolling. Take a date who you're sure about....

El Mariachi (Columbia Pictures)
At the least, this should be the most intriguing film of the spring. Made for \$7,000 by first-time filmmaker Robert Rodriguez, this action/adventure has drawn raves for its director's abilities. The story concerns a mariachi musician who arrives in a small Mexican town at the same time as a hired killer. Both are carrying similar black guitar cases, and before you know it, there is a big mix-up. The mariachi must then confront the violent underworld and his own evil. It looks like fun, sounds like fun and smells like fun. And it may give you an idea for a summer trip.

in the BEST of S

on the set

Director Peter Bogdanovich doesn't have the word "comeback" etched on his agenda. But after a string of less-than-stellar films — *Texasville* and *Noises Off* — the man who directed the critically acclaimed *The Last Picture Show* is trying to make it back. Just don't call it a comeback.



Peter Bogdanovich

"I've been having so many supposed comebacks. Clinton's got nothing on me," Bogdanovich says from the set of his newest venture, *The Thing Called Love*. "I really think if you're any good you're not going to have one hit after another. Most people that are any good have their ups and downs. Between flops I've had a few hits."

The Thing Called Love, a Paramount film set for release this summer, traces the lives and loves of country singers and songwriters. "It's very character-driven. This is not a picture like *Fame*," Bogdanovich explains. The flick, which stars River Phoenix, Samantha Mathis and Dermot Mulroney, takes Nashville's legendary Bluebird Café center stage, where country music hopefuls go in search of their first big break.

"The picture's about people — it happens to be people who are interested in songs in Nashville," Bogdanovich says. "It's an unusual idea that you have going — people auditioning their songs. It's a kind of variety thing that they do in a strangely informal, very unpretentious atmosphere." — Jim Radosta, *The Graphic*, Peppercorn U.

video calendar

A brief look at April releases

Revenge of the Nerds 3: The Next Generation, Fox Video, 4/7; **Love Potion #9**, Fox Video, 4/7; **Traces of Red**, HBO, 4/7; **Consenting Adults**, Hollywood, 4/7; **Husbands and Wives**, Columbia/TriStar, 4/7; **Reservoir Dogs**, Live, 4/7; **Mighty Ducks**, Disney, 4/14; **Sarafina!**, Touchstone, 4/14; **The Public Eye**, MCA/Universal, 4/14; **Passenger 57**, Warner, 4/14; **Hero**, Columbia, 4/14; **The Baby Doll Murders**, Republic, 4/14; **The Taste for Killing**, MCA/Universal, 4/14; **Lady Killer**, MCA/Universal, 4/14; **Liar's Edge**, New Line, 4/14; **A Cry in the Night**, Republic, 4/14; **Four Eyes and Six Guns**, Turner, 4/14; **Pet Semetary 2**, Paramount, 4/21; **Eating**, Paramount, 4/21; **Robot Wars**, Full Moon, 4/21; **Night and the City**, Fox Video, 4/21; **Bob Roberts**, Live, 4/28; **Dr. Giggles**, MCA/Universal, 4/28; **Trespass**, MCA/Universal, 4/28

quotable

"During these scenes, all I was thinking was 'My God, what would Bruce think of this?'"

—Woody Harrelson on love scenes with Demi Moore for the upcoming Paramount release, *Indecent Proposal*