



They're back: Priscilla Presley and Leslie Nielsen reunite in *Naked Gun 33 1/3: The Final Insult*.

More basketball flicks, the final (we think) *Naked Gun* and yet another Michael J. Fox money movie top the list of films slated for release this spring.

Naked Gun 33 1/3: The Final Insult (Paramount)

After a year of wannabe spoofs such as *Fatal Instinct*, *Robin Hood: Men in Tights* and *Loaded Weapon I*, it's refreshing to see Leslie Nielsen back as Lt. Frank Drebin in what promises to be the final installment of the *Police Squad!*-inspired series. Co-stars include Priscilla Presley, Fred Ward and alleged silicone queen Anna Nicole Smith.

The Ref (Buena Vista)

Denis Leary blew audiences away last Christmas with a biting trailer for this film that tore apart such flops as *Sister Act 2*. Well, Leary will now get a chance to



show his stuff. *The Ref* casts the chain-smoking comedian as a jewel thief who kidnaps a bickering couple (Judy Davis, Kevin Spacey) on Christmas Eve and pays the consequences. Ted Demme (Jonathan's brother) directs. I got two words for this one: good luck.

Greedy (Universal)

The Secret of My Success, *For Love or Money* and *Bright Lights, Big City* — anybody notice a trend here? Money hound Alex P. Keaton just seems to live on and on in Michael J. Fox's career. His latest is *Greedy*, the story of a bunch of avaricious cousins who want a piece of their uncle's (Kirk Douglas) fortune. Olivia d'Abo — who scored big in *Wayne's World II* — loses major points here for her role as "a sexy pizza delivery girl."



8 Seconds (New Line)

Life imitates art. *8 Seconds* is described

as depicting the "meteoric rise of a maverick hero...." And who should be cast as rodeo star Lane Frost but 90210's own Luke Perry. Meanwhile, the Baldwins, who are inundating Hollywood as much as the Kennedys are still ruling Washington, have another star in the running: Stephen Baldwin, as Tuff Hedeman, who is friends with Dylan — er, Luke.



Above the Rim (New Line)

In a year that has already seen *The Air Up There* and *Blue Chips*, one more basketball flick couldn't hurt. Duane Martin plays an up-and-coming basketball player who must choose between propositions from a legitimate mentor and a streetwise drug dealer. And in a brilliant casting maneuver, Birdie (the drug dealer) is played by none other than rapper Tupac Shakur.



Sirens (Miramax)

Sports Illustrated and *Premiere* magazine can both rejoice over this film, as it marks the acting debut of famed *SI* cover girl Elle MacPherson. The plot, however, revolves around an erotic painter (Sam Neill) and the sexual awakening of a clergyman's wife (Tara Fitzgerald). Need we say more?

You So Crazy (Miramax)

As if a half-hour per week on the small screen series *Martin* isn't enough, comedian Martin Lawrence has his celluloid dream come true in *You So Crazy*. Lawrence, who previously appeared on the big screen in Eddie Murphy's

Boomerang, presents his outspoken style in this fresh concert film.

The Hudsucker Proxy (Warner Bros.)

The flawless Tim Robbins never seems to disappoint. *The Hudsucker Proxy* teams him up with Jennifer Jason Leigh, Paul Newman and director Joel Coen as an up-and-coming executive who is being duped by his peers, à la *The Firm*.

With Honors (Warner Bros.)

With Honors marks Joe Pesci's return to the big screen after a one-year hiatus. Alek Keshishian, who performed wonders with Madonna's tour documentary *Truth or Dare*, directs this tale of a Harvard student who learns about life after he must bargain with a homeless man (Pesci) to get his thesis back.

Threesome (TriStar)

Three of Hearts redux? This time it's a gay man, a straight man and a straight woman who end up living together and becoming embroiled in a bizarre love triangle. See, her name is Alex, so university housing assigns her to a room with two guys. Naturally, Alex (Lara Flynn Boyle) wants Eddy (Josh Charles), Eddy wants Stuart (Stephen Baldwin), Stuart wants Alex. Get it? They certainly do.



Backbeat (Gramercy)

From Gramercy, the studio that brought us *Dazed and Confused*, comes the highly anticipated *Backbeat*, the story of the days before the Beatles were fab. Ian Hart is John Lennon and Stephen Dorff is Stu Sutcliffe, the "wind beneath John's wings" in the early 1960s prior to the band making it big. ■ Jim Radosta, *The Graphic*, Pepperdine U.

on the set

Ask surfers what their favorite movie is and they'll probably answer: "*Endless Summer*." Released in 1966, *Endless Summer* follows two surfers as they search for the perfect wave at exotic locales around the world.

"It's every surfer's dream," explains Bruce Brown, the one-man production team behind the cult film. After many requests, Brown hit the waves again, and the result, *Endless Summer II*, is scheduled for release by New Line this summer.

This time, it's Robert "Wingnut" Weaver, 28, and Pat O'Connell, 23, globetrotting from paradise to paradise, including Indonesia, Costa Rica and South Africa. Brown describes *Endless Summer II* as the story of "two ordinary guys who are stoked" to be surfing around the world.

This version, however, will be much more high tech than the original, which Brown shot by himself with one wind-up 16mm camera. For the sequel, he and his son coordinated 3,000 pounds of camera gear and a 12-man crew. "The world's changed a lot," Brown says. "I wanted to prove that you can still do it. You can still get off your butt and take a leap of faith." ■ Anne Bergman, *Daily Trojan*, U. of Southern California



Endless Summer II

video calendar

March releases

Much Ado About Nothing (Columbia/TriStar) 3/2; **Striking Distance** (Columbia/TriStar) 3/2; **The Good Son** (Fox) 3/2; **Demolition Man** (Warner Bros.) 3/2; **So I Married An Axe Murderer** (Columbia/TriStar) 3/9; **Manhattan Murder Mystery** (Columbia/TriStar) 3/9; **King of the Hill** (MCA/Universal) 3/9; **Judgment Night** (MCA/Universal) 3/9; **Bopha!** (Paramount) 3/16; **Gettysburg** (Turner) 3/16; **Fatal Instinct** (MGM/UA) 3/23; **What's Love Got To Do With It** (Buena Vista) 3/23; **The Fugitive** (Warner Bros.) 3/23; **The Joy Luck Club** (Buena Vista) 3/30; **Dazed and Confused** (MCA/Universal) 3/30

quotable

"I think the most important thing as a generation is not to be sold back to ourselves. Mass media's trying to sell it back to you as a beer or whatever."

—Helen Childress, *Reality Bites* screenwriter