

Reel

BY TRICIA LAINE

IT'S A BIG MONTH FOR ALL OF YOUR favorite 20somethings. With Uma Thurman, Winona Ryder, Keanu Reeves and Ben Chaplin (we predict that he'll be a new fave), there's something for every soft heart in the house. The emphasis seems to be on romance and all things twisted. Although the oldies (Richard Gere and Nick Nolte) are sticking with the gravy in their newest crime dramas, April is for the young at heart!



Boys

Touchstone

Doe-eyed Winona Ryder captures the heart of Lukas Haas (*Leap of Faith*) and the rest of the class. See, she hangs out at an exclusive boys' high school. And well, you know how the hormones — er, emotions — are at that age. Basically, they're all tripping over each other trying to win her heart. So here's what we're wondering: Isn't Winona getting a little old to be hanging out with high schoolers?

Feeling Minnesota

Four Line

The notion is that weddings bring out the best in people. Unless, of course, you just said "I do" to a nervous groom (Vincent D'Onofrio, *Strange Days*) you can't stand. And then you run into his brother, played by Keanu Reeves, and accidentally have sex with him while the guests are still eating the cake. Oops. Cameron Diaz (*The Mask*) is the lucky bride.



The Truth about Cats and Dogs

20th Century Fox

The twist women have been waiting for. Instead of Cyrano de Bergerac, it's Janeane Garofalo (although we think she's really cute) enlisting the help of the lithe Uma Thurman. As a charming radio personality, Garofalo catches the ear of a gorgeous photographer (Ben Chaplin (*Remains of the Day*)). When he wants to meet her in person, she panics. Romantic twists and turns follow.



The Pallbearer

Miramax

"Alas!" the people cried. If the weekly Must See TV quota of *Friends* just isn't enough, you can catch David Schwimmer playing a sappy romantic who can't find a job, a girlfriend or a way out of his mother's house. And you may be (un)happy to know that *Pallbearer* kicks off a glut of new movies starring the regulars from Central Perk.



Primal Fear

Paramount

Richard Gere makes a big stretch playing arrogant criminal defense attorney Martin Vail. When a sniveling, penniless man is accused of murder, Vail takes the case — if only to flex his courtroom muscles. Laura Linney (*A Simple Twist of Fate*) plays his tenacious ex-girlfriend/prosecuting attorney.



The Last Supper

Sony

A group of heady grad students sets a standing date with disaster. In order to discuss politics and current events, Cameron Diaz, Annabeth Gish (*Beautiful Girls*), Ron Eldard (*Scent of a Woman*), Jonathan Penner (*The Naked Truth*) and Courtney B. Vance (*Panther*) invite a different controversial guest to each weekly dinner party. The surprising guest list will titillate you as much as the movie's dark humor.

Celtic Pride

Hollywood Pictures

If you've been known to plan your life around a particular team's schedule (read: the Boston Celtics) and a certain show on a particular network by the name of something like, let's say, *SportsCenter*, then you have to fit *Celtic Pride* into your lineup. Dan Aykroyd goes to desperate measures — while drawing lots of laughs — to support his favorite group of ball bouncers.



Mulholland Falls

MGM/UA

Nick Nolte puts on his tough-guy hat and steps back in time to the 1950s as one of the biggest, baddest cops in the LAPD. The group makes up its own rules to enforce the law until glitches in a routine murder case threaten the status of the whole department. Sounds vaguely famil...sorry.



James and the Giant Peach

Disney

Millions of peaches... wait, that's a song. OK. Take the genius of best-selling children's novelist Roald Dahl (*Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*), add the makers of *The Nightmare Before Christmas* and trip it all up with the technique of stop-motion animation. It all comes together in this happy adventure that will leave you feeling just peachy.



Fear

Universal

As you can tell from the title, director James Foley (*Glengarry Glen Ross*) hopes to put knots in your stomach. Mark Wahlberg (*Basketball Diaries*) is the boyfriend turned bad. When he tries to tighten the reins on his girlfriend, Reese Witherspoon (*Man in the Moon*), her whole family gets involved. You'll know what it feels like to be stalked.



Mrs. Winterborne

TriStar

If you can resist the urge to yell out petty comments or raise your hand when you have a question, you'll probably like Ricki Lake's newest shot on the silver screen. Although it's no "my mother slept with my boyfriend and now she's pregnant," Lake's character does have an identity crisis of sorts. Stay tuned for advice.

Sunset Park

TriStar

Warm fuzzies and a bushel of sweaty gym socks are probably not what you'd expect from Sunset's leading lady, Rhea Perlman (TV's *Cher*). She's taken the post as coach of a boys' high school varsity basketball team. And they're out to kick some proverbial butt. Enough said.



Psst! Have you heard? U's web site now has movie news and gossip: <http://www.umagazine.com>

Screen Saver

The Celluloid Closet

The Celluloid Closet chronicles the subtle and sometimes not-so-subtle history of Hollywood and homosexuality. This closet is packed full of all there is to know about how homosexuals are viewed in the movies — from the role of the sissy, Hollywood's first gay stock character, to the first movie — *Boys in the Band* (1970) — where gays looked openly at their own lives.

Watching *Celluloid* unfold is like standing in front of a closet straight out of Saturday morning cartoons. When narrator Lily Tomlin opens the door, an assortment of film clips comes crashing down on your head. You won't be the only one feeling a bit stupid for not getting the gay in-jokes the first time you saw these movies. From over 100 Hollywood films — we're talking mainstream movies like *Rebel Without a Cause*, *Gentlemen Prefer Blondes* and *Ben-Hur* — you'll be amazed and amused at how writers and directors skirted around the issue of homosexuality.

Celluloid includes interviews with the likes of Tom Hanks, Whoopi Goldberg, Shirley MacLaine and Susan Sarandon. This is a must-see for all movie buffs and anyone interested in tales from the closet.

The Reel Deal

The Truth about Cats and Dogs

When a successful actress refuses to watch herself on screen, it seems fitting that she should play the character of Abby in *The Truth about Cats and Dogs*. (See preview this page.) You see, Abby has the wits to hook a would-be suitor, but she doesn't think she has the looks to seal the deal.

"I can't bare to see my own stuff," says Janeane Garofalo. "Oh my God, it's so unpleasant," she says about seeing herself on a huge screen — every flaw, times 10.

You may only know her as the crazy roommate and Gap princess in *Reality Bites*. But she's a seasoned actress and stand-up comedienne — we tracked her down between shows in St. Louis — and she was a cast member of *Saturday Night Live*. You wouldn't expect such a pro to hate to see herself in the movies.

"I could definitely relate to being the type of person that has to earn attention at a party through verbal skills," Garofalo says about how she identified with her character, Abby. "Every boyfriend I've ever had, I had to earn. It always started out as friends."

"I've never had someone say 'Wow!' in the beginning."

So why does she keep doing movies?

"You're being paid a lot of money to read a lot," she says. Her first love is stand-up comedy, but acting gives her the freedom and financial stability to go for her true love. Garofalo says there's a big difference between comedy, which she creates, and acting, which involves dialogue created by someone else.

"[Acting] can be very boring... if you're saying dialogue that you don't think is interesting," she says. "But at the same time, it's better than working in a factory."

